

The House was adjourned during pleasure.

The House was resumed.

His Excellency the Most Honorable HENRY CHARLES KEITH PETTY-FITZMAURICE, Marquis of *Lansdowne*, in the County of *Somerset*, Earl of *Wycombe*, of *Chipping-Wycombe*, in the County of *Bucks*, Viscount *Caln* and *Calstone* in the County of *Wilts*, and Lord *Wycombe*, Baron of *Chipping-Wycombe*, in the County of *Bucks*, in the Peerage of *Great Britain*, Earl of *Kerry* and Earl of *Shelburne*, Viscount *Clanmaurice* and *Fitzmaurice*, Baron of *Kerry*, *Liznaw* and *Dunkerron*, in the Peerage of *Ireland*; Governor General of *Canada*, and Vice Admiral of the same, &c., &c., &c., being seated in the Chair on the Throne.

The Honorable the Speaker commanded the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod to proceed to the House of Commons and acquaint that House—"It is His Excellency's pleasure they attend him immediately in this House."

Who, being come with their Speaker,

His Excellency the Governor General was then pleased to open the Session by a gracious Speech to both Houses.

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate :*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

In fulfilment of the important trust committed to me by Her Majesty, I have recourse for the first time to your advice and assistance. It is a source of the deepest personal satisfaction to me that I should have been called by Her Majesty to an office in which, as Her Representative, I am enabled to take a part in the public affairs of the Dominion, and to associate myself with you in the performance of the honorable duties which you are about to approach.

I rejoice to learn that although the last harvest has been less productive than its predecessors, and although there are indications that the rapid expansion of your commerce has to some extent been followed by over-trading, the general condition of the Dominion is such as to justify me in congratulating you upon its prosperity.

The marked success attained by *Canada* at the International Fishery Exhibition in *London*, must be very gratifying to you, and has, I doubt not, been of great service in showing to the world the wealth of our fisheries and the extent of our marine industries and resources.

The Commissioners appointed by my predecessor for the purposes of consolidating the Statutes affecting the Dominion, have pursued their task with diligence, and I am enabled to lay before you for examination about sixty chapters of the proposed consolidation. The remainder of the work will be prepared, and the whole of it revised during the present year, so that the final report will be ready at your next Session for your approval.

The number of immigrants to *Canada* during the past season has, I am glad to say, been greater than in any previous year, and is a proof that the better *Canada* is known the more it is valued by those seeking a home in the new world.

Arrangements are in progress to diminish the cost of inland transport, and I have reason to believe that the result will be a steady increase of valuable settlers, in the future.

During the recess, negotiations were resumed with *British Columbia* in regard to several matters upon which differences had for some time existed between the two Governments. One of my Ministers visited that Province last summer on a special mission, with a view to the adjustment of all questions in controversy, and his efforts have happily been successful. Should your sanction be given to the arrangements then made, all occasions of dispute will have been removed, and the most cordial relations established between the Dominion and Provincial Governments. The papers will be laid before you and your consideration invited to measures enabling me to give effect to the agreement.