

HONORABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE :

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS :

It gives me much pleasure to welcome you to this the first session of the hundred and third Parliament of Canada for the consideration of public business.

I am gratified to note that the able administration of the present Government has effected an enormous increase in the price of hogs and eggs and has been instrumental in bringing about the total abolition of hydrophobia, thus saving the population of our fair Dominion from the danger of complete extermination.

One thing alone gives us cause for regret on this most auspicious occasion of the opening of His Majesty's Parliament. Since the last meeting of this august body of Commoners the nation has been called to suffer a loss unparalleled in the annals of ancient or modern history. The calamity resulting from the failure of the potato crop in Ireland or the devastation caused by the grass hoppers of two summers ago, sinks into insignificance when compared with the loss which the nation experienced this year in the decease of her most beloved, illustrious and gracious sovereign, King Edward VII. Even after the lapse of five months the subject is so painful that we will forbear from discussing it further, but the obsequies for our deceased monarch having been solemnized what more can this august body of men do than let his bones repose in peace. The bitterness of our sorrow is only mitigated by the accession to the throne of his illustrious son whose executive ability and diplomatic power promises to even surpass that of his distinguished Pa. Even at this early period in his administration he has shown his wisdom by sending his representative, the Hon. George Johnson, K.C.M.G.X.Y.Z., to the Premier of this House with promises of an immediate decrease in the duty on figs and prunes which are shipped into this country. By this measure, these dainty morsels may be bought at such a reduced price that even the internal cravings of the carnivorous bipeds at the coonables, may be supplied without exhausting the funds of the House.

Wide and extensive plans have been made for the extending and improving of our Athletic Fields. Already vast stretches of waste land have been stumped, stoned and sticked, and that plot of ground that once resembled the back yard of a Jew's junk shop, has been converted into two spacious commodious, supermagnephoneous, tennis courts. No longer will the players be interrupted in their games by the unceremonious entering of grocery waggons, milk carts or wheelbarrows; no longer shall the knights of the tennis ball suffer nervous prostration from the coy glances cast at them from the upper windows of the ladies' departments; all is changed and the tennis "Deuce" and "Love", in place of