

### THE SENATE.

*Ottawa, Thursday, Feb. 7, 1901.*

The Speaker took the Chair at 2.30 p.m.

PRAYERS.

#### NEW SENATOR.

HON. JOHN VALENTINE ELLIS, of the city of St. John, N.B., was introduced and took his seat.

The Senate was adjourned during pleasure.

After some time the Senate was resumed.

His Excellency the Right Trusty and Right Well-Beloved Cousin the Right Honourable Sir Gilbert John Elliot, Earl of Minto and Viscount Melgund of Melgund, County of Forfar, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom, Baron Minto of Minto, County of Roxburgh, in the Peerage of Great Britain, Baronet of Nova Scotia, Knight Grand Cross of Our Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, &c., &c., Governor General of Canada, being seated on the Throne,

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,

The Hon. Louis Philippe Brodeur said:—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY :

The House of Commons have elected me as their Speaker, though I am but little able to fulfil the important duties thus assigned to me.

If in the performance of those duties, I should at any time fall into error, I pray that the fault may be imputed to me, and not to the Commons, whose servant I am, and who, through me, the better to enable them to discharge their duty to their King and country, humbly claim all their undoubted rights and privileges, especially that they may have freedom of speech in their debates, access to Your Excellency's person at all seasonable times, and that their proceedings may receive from Your Excellency the most favourable interpretation.

The Honourable the Speaker of the Senate then said:—

Mr. SPEAKER :

I am commanded by His Excellency the Governor General to declare to you that he fully

confides in the duty and attachment of the House of Commons to His Majesty's person and government; and not doubting that their proceedings will be conducted with wisdom, temper and prudence, he grants, and upon all occasions will recognize and allow their constitutional privileges. I am commanded also to assure you, that the Commons shall have ready access to His Excellency upon all seasonable occasions, and that their proceedings, as well as your words and actions, will constantly receive from him the most favourable construction.

#### THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

His Excellency the Governor General was then pleased to open the Session by a Gracious Speech to both Houses:—

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate :*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

Since our last meeting the empire has been called on to lament the demise of her late Majesty Queen Victoria. The universal regret and sympathy with which the tidings of her decease have been received throughout the entire civilized world, afford the best testimony to the manner in which she has, at all times, discharged her duties, both as a woman and a sovereign, throughout her unprecedentedly long and glorious reign, and I will venture to add that in no portion of her vast territories were those sentiments more profoundly felt than in the Dominion of Canada.

You will, I am sure, take early action to express your sympathy with the Royal Family in their bereavement and your loyalty to the new sovereign.

The Canadian contingents to South Africa have nearly all returned, and it affords me a very great gratification to be able to assure you that the valour and good conduct of our Canadian soldiers have called forth the highest encomiums from the several commanders under whom they have served during the arduous contest.

The union of the several provinces of Australia into one confederation, upon lines closely resembling those on which our own Dominion has been established, marks another important step towards the consolidation of the outlying portions of the empire, and, I am well assured, will call forth your most sincere congratulations to the new commonwealth.

Acting on the advice of my ministers, I had, previously to the great grief which has fallen upon the nation, tendered an invitation on your behalf to His Royal Highness the Duke of Cornwall and York to conclude his intended visit to Australasia by one to the Dominion of Canada, and I am glad to be able to inform you that His