

the Governor General in the Senate Chamber, I informed His Excellency that the choice of Speaker had fallen on me, and, in your names and on your behalf, I made the usual claim for your privileges, which His Excellency was pleased to confirm to you.

CONTROVERTED ELECTION.

Mr. SPEAKER laid before the House a judgment bearing date the 8th November, 1890, of the Hon. Mr. Justice Armour, one of the judges selected for the trial of election petitions pursuant to the Dominion Controverted Elections Act, 1874, in the matter of the election petition for the Electoral District of the County of Halton, by which the then sitting member was declared duly elected.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS OF OFFICE.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD introduced Bill (No. 1) respecting the Administration of Oaths of Office.

Bill read the first time.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

Mr. SPEAKER. I have the honour to inform this House that when the House attended His Excellency the Governor General this day in the Senate Chamber, His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of Parliament, and, to prevent mistakes, I have obtained a copy of the Speech, which is as follows:—

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

I am glad to welcome you to the duties of the first Session of a new Parliament, which I hope will be memorable for wise deliberations, and for measures adapted to the progress and development of the Dominion.

The season in which you are assembled has opened auspiciously for the industries of our people. Let us hope that their labours may be crowned with fruitful returns from land and sea, and that the great resources of Canada may continue to reward the toil and enterprise of its inhabitants.

My advisers, availing themselves of opportunities which were presented in the closing months of last year, caused the Administration of the United States to be reminded of the willingness of the Government of Canada to join in making efforts for the extension and development of the trade between the Republic and the Dominion, as well as for the friendly adjustment of those matters of an international character which remain unsettled. I am pleased to say that these representations have resulted in an assurance that, in October next, the Government of the United States will be prepared to enter on a Conference to consider the best means of arriving at a practical solution of these important questions. The papers relating to this subject will be laid before you.

Under these circumstances, and in the hope that the proposed Conference may result in arrangements beneficial to both countries, you will be called upon to consider the expediency of extending, for the present season, the principal provisions of the protocol annexed to the Washington Treaty, 1888, known as the *Modus Vivendi*.

A disposition having been manifested in the United Kingdom to impose on sea-going ships engaged in the cattle trade increased safeguards for life and greater restrictions against improper treatment, a careful en-

quiry has been made as to the incidents of that trade, in so far as this country is concerned. The evidence elicited on this enquiry will be laid before you. While I am glad to learn that our shipping is free from reproach in that regard, your attention will be invited to a measure which will remove all reasonable apprehensions of abuses arising in the future in connection with so important a branch of our commerce.

The early coming into force of the Imperial Statute relating to the Vice-Admiralty Courts of the Empire has made it necessary to revise the laws in force in Canada respecting our Courts of Maritime Jurisdiction, and a measure will therefore be laid before you, designed to reorganize those tribunals.

A Code of the Criminal Law has been prepared in order that this branch of our jurisprudence may be simplified and improved, to which your best attention is invited.

Measures relating to the Foreshores of the Dominion and to the obstruction of its navigable waters, will be submitted to you, and you will also be asked to consider amendments to the Acts relating to the North-West Territories, to the Exchequer Court Act, and to the Acts relating to Trade Marks.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

The Accounts for the past year will be submitted to you. The Revenue, after providing for the services to which you appropriated it, has left a surplus for the works which you designed to be carried on by Capital expenditure.

The Estimates for the coming year will be laid before you at an early date.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

I pray that in the consideration of these matters, and in the performance of all the labours which will devolve on you, your deliberations may be Divinely aided, and that your wisdom and patriotism may enlarge the prosperity of the Dominion, and promote in every way the well-being of its people.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved that the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General to both Houses of the Parliament of the Dominion of Canada be taken into consideration to-morrow.

Motion agreed to.

SELECT STANDING COMMITTEES.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved:

That Select Standing Committees of this House, for the present Session, be appointed for the following purposes:—1. On Privileges and Elections; 2. On Expiring Laws; 3. On Railways, Canals and Telegraph Lines; 4. On Miscellaneous Private Bills; 5. On Standing Orders; 6. On Printing; 7. On Public Accounts; 8. On Banking and Commerce; 9. On Immigration and Colonization;—which said Committees shall severally be empowered to examine and enquire into all such matters and things as may be referred to them by the House; and to report from time to time their observations and opinions thereon, with power to send for persons, papers and records.

Motion agreed to.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved:

That a Special Committee of seven members be appointed to prepare and report with all convenient speed, lists of members to compose the Select Standing Committees ordered by the House this day, and that Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir Hector Langevin, Sir Richard Cartwright, Sir John Thompson, and Messrs. Bowell, Laurier and Mills (Bothwell) do compose the said Committee.

Motion agreed to.