

THE DEBATES
OF THE
SENATE OF CANADA

N THE

FOURTH SESSION OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF CANADA, APPOINTED TO MEET
FOR DESPATCH OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, THE SIXTEENTH
DAY OF MARCH, IN THE SIXTY-SECOND YEAR
OF THE REIGN OF

HER MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA

THE SENATE.

Ottawa, Thursday, 16th March, 1899.

The Senate met at 2.30 p.m.

PRAYERS.

THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir Gilbert John Elliot Murray-Kynynmond, 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, etc., etc., Governor General of Canada, being seated on the Throne,

The Honourable 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 :

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate :

Gentlemen of the House of Commons :

In meeting you for the first time since entering upon my duties, as the representative of Her Majesty in this Dominion, it affords me great pleasure to be able to congratulate you on the large degree of prosperity which the people of Canada at present enjoy, as evidenced by the expansion of trade and commerce, the flourishing condition of the public revenues and the increased number of immigrants who have become permanent settlers amongst us. To these evidences may be added another which is even more gratifying,—the almost total cessation of the considerable exodus of our population which at one time was a regrettable feature of our affairs.

The negotiations which were set on foot during the recess between Her Majesty’s Government and that of the United States in reference to the settlement of certain questions in dispute between Canada and the latter country were, I grieve to say, greatly delayed by the illness and subsequent death of two of the most eminent members of the Commission appointed for that purpose. Considerable progress had been made on several of the subjects submitted, but a serious disagreement arose between Her Majesty’s Commissioners and the Commissioners of the United States on the question of the delimitation of the Boundary between Canada and Alaska ; the question was referred by the Commissioners to their respective Governments, the Commission being adjourned to the second day of August next, in the hope that, in the meantime, the difficulty might be overcome.

In compliance with the Act passed last session a Plebiscite was held on the question of prohibition ;