

Debates and Proceedings

OF THE

SENATE OF CANADA,

IN THE

THIRD SESSION OF THE THIRD PARLIAMENT OF THE DOMINION OF
CANADA, CALLED FOR THE DESPATCH OF BUSINESS ON THE
10TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1876.

SENATE.

THURSDAY, Feb. 10, 1876.

This day at three o'clock p.m., His Excellency the Governor General proceeded in State to the Chamber of the Senate, in the Parliament Buildings, and took his seat upon the Throne. The members of the Senate being assembled, His Excellency was pleased to command the attendance of the House of Commons, and that House being present, His Excellency was pleased to open the Third Session of the Third Parliament of the Dominion of Canada with the following

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate :
Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

I have much pleasure in again calling you together to attend to the business of the country.

Since you last assembled it has been my happiness to visit the Mother Country, and to have had the opportunity while there of calling public attention to the remarkable progress of the Dominion, and of giving expression to the feelings of attachment to the person of Her Majesty

and the interests of the Empire which animate the Canadian people.

The great depression which has prevailed throughout neighbouring countries for several years, and which has more recently been felt in the Old World, causing a general stagnation of business, has extended to Canada, and has seriously affected our trade. At the same time, we have reason to be grateful for an abundant harvest ; and while I deeply regret the suffering which exists among certain classes, and in particular localities, I believe nevertheless that the great bulk of our people continue to enjoy a condition of reasonable prosperity.

I am happy to be able to congratulate you on the fact that the great railway undertaking, connecting the former Province of Canada with the Maritime Provinces, provided for by the Act of 1867, is approaching completion. Early in the coming summer, the small portion of the Intercolonial line not already in operation will be opened, when the connection with other systems of railway will be formed, so as to enable passengers and traffic to pass over continuous lines of railway from Halifax to St. John to the extreme Western railways of Ontario.