

gracious Speech he has been pleased to make to both Houses of Parliament: namely:—

TO HIS EXCELLENCY the Right Honourable Sir FREDERICK ARTHUR STANLEY, Baron Stanley of Preston, in the County of Lancaster, in the Peerage of Great Britain; Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Governor General of Canada and Vice-Admiral of the same.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:—

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Senate of Canada in Parliament assembled, humbly thank Your Excellency for your gracious Speech at the opening of this Session.

We also respectfully thank Your Excellency for your reception of us in assuming the duties of the first Session of a new Parliament, and for your gracious expression of the hope that it will be memorable for wise deliberations and for measures adapted to the progress and development of the Dominion.

We rejoice to hear from Your Excellency that the season in which we are assembled has opened auspiciously for the industries of our people. We 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.

We receive with a full sense of its importance the information that Your Excellency's 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. We are pleased to hear from Your Excellency 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, and we thank Your Excellency for informing us that the papers relating to the subject will be laid before us.

Your Excellency having been pleased further to inform us that under these circumstances, and in the hope that the proposed Conference may result in arrangements beneficial to both countries, we shall 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*, we beg leave to assure Your Excellency that any measure for that purpose shall receive our most careful consideration.

We hear with much interest that 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 enquiry has been made as to the incidents of that trade in so far as this country is concerned. We thank Your Excellency for the assurance that the evidence elicited on this enquiry will be laid before us. We are glad to learn that our shipping is free from reproach in that regard, but the attention which Your Excellency has been pleased to invite will be cheerfully given to any measure which will remove all reasonable apprehensions of abuses arising in the future in connection with so important a branch of our commerce.

We thank Your Excellency for informing us that 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 we shall consider attentively the measure to be laid before us designed to reorganize those tribunals.

We are glad to learn that a Code of the Criminal Law has been prepared in order that that branch of our jurisprudence may be simplified and improved, and Your Excellency may rest assured that our best attention will be given thereto.

Your Excellency has been pleased to inform us that measures relating to the Foreshores of the Dominion and to the obstruction of its navigable waters will be submitted to us, and that we shall 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. We respectfully assure Your Excellency that they shall receive our attentive consideration.

We humbly join in Your Excellency's prayer that in the consideration of these matters, and in the performance of all the labours which will devolve on us, our deliberations may be Divinely aided, and that their results may enlarge the prosperity of the Dominion, and promote in every way the well-being of its people.

He said:—

Honourables Messieurs,

En prenant la parole pour la première fois dans cette honorable chambre, la plus haute chambre du pays, je désire réclamer votre indulgence et vous dire en même temps que je suis fier d'appartenir à un corps qui compte dans son sein tant d'hommes distingués. Ces hommes distingués qui pour la plupart représentent une longue expérience, représentent aussi les deux partis qui se disputent la confiance publique, et s'ils diffèrent sur les moyens à prendre, ils sont mûs par un sentiment commun: servir la Reine, servir l'Etat.

Cette session, honorables messieurs, me semble s'ouvrir sous des auspices particulièrement heureux. Le Sénat vient d'être honoré par l'élévation à la présidence de l'un de ses membres les plus éminents, qui continuera dignement les meilleures traditions de ses devanciers. Si vous étiez fiers d'avoir pour leader un homme consommé dans l'art parlementaire, d'un autre côté vous croyiez n'être pas suffisamment représentés au Conseil Privé. Or, ce vœu a été doublement exaucé. Si nous en croyons la rumeur nous saluerons bientôt dans notre leader le président du Conseil Privé, et les hasards de la guerre vont aussi nous procurer l'avantage d'avoir au milieu de nous l'honorable ministre de l'agriculture. Pour compléter notre bonheur, j'espère que le gouvernement pourra l'un de ces jours se rendre au désir si fréquemment et si vigoureusement exprimé par l'honorable représentant de Lanaudière.

En tous temps, le Sénat a toujours été considéré comme l'une des grandes forces sociales et politiques, comme l'un des