

THE DEBATES

OF THE

SENATE OF CANADA

IN THE

FIFTH SESSION OF THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF CANADA, APPOINTED TO MEET FOR DESPATCH OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, THE EIGHTEENTH DAY OF APRIL, IN THE FIFTY-EIGHTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF

HER MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA

THE SENATE.

Ottawa, Thursday, 18th April, 1895.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at 2.30 p.m.

Prayers.

NEW SENATOR.

Hon. Joseph Octave Arsenault, of Prince Edward Island, was introduced and, having taken the oath prescribed by law, took his seat.

The House adjourned during pleasure.

After some time the House was resumed.

THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

At THREE o'clock P.M., HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL proceeded in state to the Senate Chamber, in the Parliament Buildings, and took his seat upon the Throne. The Senators 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 FIFTH SESSION OF THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA, with the following Speech:—

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

It is with much satisfaction that I again have recourse to your advice and assistance in the administration of the affairs of the Dominion.

By the sudden and lamented death of the late Right Honourable Sir John Thompson, Canada has sustained a grievous loss. The deep and heartfelt sympathy expressed by Her most Gracious Majesty the Queen, and the manifestations of sorrow with which the distressing intelligence was received throughout the Empire, as well as tokens of esteem and respect everywhere paid to the memory of the deceased statesman, have been gratefully appreciated by the people of Canada.

Satisfactory assurances having been received from Her Majesty's Government respecting the interpretation of certain clauses in the Treaty of Commerce with France, ratifications will be exchanged as soon as the necessary legislation has been passed.

The recent action of the Imperial Parliament enabling the various Australasian Governments to enter into preferential trade relations with the other self-governing Colonies of the Empire, affords gratifying proof that the suggestions of the Colonial Conference are being favourably entertained by Her Majesty's Government.

In conformity with a recent judgment of the Lords of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, to the effect that the dissentient minority of the people of Manitoba have a constitutional right of appeal to the Governor General in Council against certain Acts passed by the legislature of the province of Manitoba in relation to the subject of education, I have heard in Council the appeal, and my decision thereon has been communicated to the legislature of the said province. The papers on the subject will be laid before you.

The depression in trade which has prevailed throughout the world for the past few years has made itself felt in Canada, but fortunately to a less degree than in most other countries. Although this has not resulted in any considerable decrease in the volume of our foreign trade, yet owing to low prices and recent reductions in and removal of taxation, it has been followed by a serious decrease in revenue derived from Customs and