

THE DEBATES

OF THE

SENATE OF CANADA

IN THE

THIRD SESSION OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF CANADA, APPOINTED TO MEET
FOR DESPATCH OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, THE THIRD DAY
OF FEBRUARY, IN THE SIXTY-FIRST YEAR OF
THE REIGN OF

HER MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA

THE SENATE.

Ottawa, Thursday, 3rd Feb., 1898.

The Senate met at 2.30 p.m.

PRAYERS.

NEW SENATOR.

HON. RAOUL DANDURAND was introduced
and took his seat.

THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir John Campbell Hamilton-Gordon, Earl of Aberdeen; Viscount Formartine, Baron Haddo, Methlic, Tarves and Kellie, in the Peerage of Scotland; Viscount Gordon of Aberdeen, County of Aberdeen, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom; Baronet of Nova Scotia; Knight Grand Cross of Our Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, &c., &c., Governor General of Canada, being seated on the Throne,

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:

I have observed with great pleasure the remarkable advance in the political importance and material prosperity of Canada during the year which has just closed.

The loan recently effected has shown that the credit of Canada has never stood so high in European markets, and affords reasonable ground for expecting that the burthens of the people will, in the near future, be materially reduced by the substitution of a much lower rate of interest on our indebtedness than that which now exists.

I congratulate you upon the exceedingly cordial reception accorded to the representatives of Canada at the jubilee ceremonials, and also upon the warm appreciation manifested everywhere throughout the mother country in reference to the conduct of Canada in materially reducing the rate of duty upon goods imported from the United Kingdom into the Dominion.

The action of the Imperial Government in denouncing the treaties with Germany and Belgium also affords most satisfactory evidence of their desire to facilitate your efforts to promote the closest possible commercial relations between Canada and the remainder of the Empire, and will, I trust, contribute materially to the development of imperial trade.

The extraordinary gold discoveries recently made upon the Yukon and its tributaries, appear likely to result in an enormous influx of people into that region, and have compelled the government to take prompt