

who through me, the better to enable them to discharge their duty to their Queen and Country, humbly claim all their undoubted rights and privileges, especially that they may have freedom of Speech in their Debates, access to Your Excellency's person at all seasonable times, and that their proceedings may receive from Your Excellency the most favorable consideration.

Then the Honorable the Speaker of the Senate said :—

MR. SPEAKER :—

I am commanded by His Excellency the Governor General to declare to you that he freely confides in the duty and attachment of the House of Commons to Her Majesty's Person and Government, and not doubting that their proceedings will be conducted with wisdom, temper and prudence, he grants, and upon all occasions will recognize and allow their constitutional privileges.

I am commanded also to assure you that the Commons shall have ready access to His Excellency upon all seasonable occasions, and that their proceedings, as well as your words and actions, will constantly receive from him the most favorable construction.

The House being returned ;

Mr. Speaker reported, That the House had been in the Senate Chamber, and that he had informed His Excellency that the choice of Speaker had fallen upon him ; and also in the name of this House, and on their behalf, he had laid claim to all their rights and privileges, that they may enjoy freedom of Speech in their Debates, and have access to His Excellency's person as occasion shall require, and that all their proceedings may receive from His Excellency the most favorable construction ; to which His Excellency was pleased to say, that he readily and willingly granted and allowed the Commons their constitutional privileges, as well as ready access to His Excellency on all seasonable occasions, and that their proceedings, as well as their words and actions, will constantly receive from him the most favorable construction.

*Ordered*, That the Right Honorable Sir *John A. Macdonald* have leave to bring in a Bill respecting the administration of Oaths of Office.

He accordingly presented the said Bill to the House, and the same was received and read the first time.

Mr. Speaker reported, That when the House did attend His Excellency the Governor General, this day, in the Senate Chamber, His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of Parliament, of which Mr. Speaker said he had, to prevent mistakes, obtained a copy, which he read to the House, as followeth :—

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate ;*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

In addressing for the first time the Parliament of Canada, I desire to express the satisfaction I feel in resorting to your advice and assistance, as well as my deep sense of my own good fortune in being permitted to associate myself with you in your labors and aspirations for the welfare of this Dominion.

I rejoice to think that my assumption of office should have taken place at a period when the prospects of the country appear so full of promise, when peace and amity prevail amongst all neighboring nations, and when so many indications are afforded of the success with which Canada herself is consolidating her political unity and developing her material resources.

In accordance with the decision of Parliament, and to carry into effect the legislation of last Session, I have caused a Charter to be granted to a body of Canadian capitalists for the construction of the Pacific Railway. The Company now formed has given assurances that this great work will be vigorously prosecuted, and a favorable state of the money market in England affords every hope that satisfactory arrangements