

After which His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to close the FOURTH SESSION of the FOURTH PARLIAMENT of the DOMINION with the following

SPEECH:

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

I desire to convey to you my best thanks for the earnestness and assiduity which you have shown in the performance of your Parliamentary duties, and I am glad to believe that on returning to your homes you will find the country everywhere enjoying a large measure of prosperity.

The Civil Service Act will, I trust, be productive of the best results. It will improve the organization and add to the usefulness of that service, already so efficient.

The measures relating to the extradition of fugitive offenders, to the winding up of Insolvent Banks, Insurance Companies and Trading Corporations, and for amending the Criminal Law, are all of an important nature.

The appropriation in aid of Railway enterprise will tend greatly to open up vast tracts of fertile country hitherto almost inaccessible to the settler.

The annual grant for the encouragement of the sea fisheries and the improvement of the condition of the fishermen will be of great value to that important branch of the national industries.

The removal of the duties on tea and coffee will lessen the cost of those important articles of food to the people, and the repeal of the Stamp tax on Bills of Exchange and Promissory Notes will be appreciated by the commercial community as a relief from an irksome burden, while the transmission of newspapers and periodicals free from postage will be accepted as a boon by the whole country.

Our manufactures already in a prosperous condition will be further aided by the abolition of the duties on metals and other raw materials used in their several productions.

It is satisfactory to know that the buoyant state of the revenue will permit these reductions, amounting to about a million and a

quarter of dollars, to be made without inconvenience.

During the recess my Ministers will continue their efforts to secure favourable commercial arrangements with France and Spain. In these endeavours the High Commissioner will receive the same hearty support from Her Majesty's Government and the Imperial Diplomacy as has already been given to him.

Such support must greatly strengthen Canada in any negotiations entered into for the improvement of her trade with foreign countries.

It has been the more readily accorded that Her Majesty's Government rely on no preference being given by Canada against the Trade or Products of the Mother Country.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

I thank you in Her Majesty's name for the supplies you have granted, which will be expended with all due attention to economy.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

I heartily congratulate you on the rapid and successful development of our manufacturing, agricultural and other industries.

I am, however, advised that their progress would have been still greater were it not that capitalists hesitate to embark their means in undertakings which would be injured, if not destroyed, by a change in the Trade and Fiscal Policy adopted by you in 1879. In order therefore to give the people, without further delay, an opportunity of expressing their deliberate opinion on this policy, and at the same time to bring into operation the measure for the readjustment of the representation in the House of Commons it, is my intention to cause this Parliament to be dissolved at an early day.

The SPEAKER of the Senate then said:—

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate and

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

It is HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL's will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued until Monday, the 26th day of June next to be here held, and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued until Monday, the 26th day of June next.