

Wycombe, in the County of Bucks, Viscount Caln and Calnstone in the County of Wilts, and Lord Wycombe, Baron of Chipping-Wycombe, in the County of Bucks, in the Peerage of Great Britain; Earl of Kerry and Earl of Shelburne, Viscount Clanmaurice and Fitzmaurice, Baron of Kerry, Lixnaw and Dunkerron, in the Peerage of Ireland; Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George; Governor General of Canada, and Vice Admiral of the same, &c., &c., &c., being seated in the Chair on the Throne,

The Honorable the Speaker commanded the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod to proceed to the House of Commons and acquaint the 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.

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate,*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

In again meeting you for the despatch of business I have to congratulate you on the abundant harvest with which Providence has blessed our country, and upon the general condition of the Dominion. Its commercial prosperity, although it has to some extent shared in the depression which has prevailed in Great Britain and in the neighbouring Republic, rests upon foundations which no temporary or partial disturbance can remove.

I trust that the present year will be one of peace and progress.

The flow of population into Manitoba and the North-West Territories, although impeded by various and unexpected causes, has been substantial, and the testimony of the members of the British Association and other visitors of the North-West last summer as to the well-being, contentment, and hopefulness of the settlers, is most gratifying.

A Bill introducing into those Territories a more simple and economical system for the transfer of land will be laid before you.

The Report of the Commission for the consolidation of the Statutes affecting the Dominion has been completed and will be submitted to you for legislative action.

You are again invited to consider a measure relating to the representation of the people in Parliament and for the assimilation of the Electoral Franchises in the several Provinces.

A provisional arrangement of matters for some time under discussion with the Government of Manitoba has been entered into, and a measure confirming the same will be submitted to you so soon as it has been accepted by the Provincial Legislature.

I deemed it expedient to issue during the recess a Commission to consider and report upon the whole subject of Chinese immigration with reference to its trade relations, as well as to those social and moral objections which have been taken to the influx of the Chinese people into Canada.

The Report of the Commissioners is very nearly completed, and will be laid before you during the present Session.

The necessity of encouraging the speedy construction of lines of Railway through the North-West Territories has pressed itself on my Government, and you will be asked to aid Railway enterprise by liberal grants of land.

Urgent representations have been made by the Boards of Trade of the chief towns in Canada, as well as by some of the Chambers of Commerce in Great Britain, of the necessity that exists for the adoption of some system of Bankruptcy or Insolvency giving adequate protection against undue preferences, and your attention to this important subject is earnestly invited.