

PRAYERS.

The Honourable the Speaker informed the Senate that he had received a communication from the Governor General's Secretary.

The same was read by the Honourable the Speaker, and it is as follows:—

OTTAWA, 10th March, 1904.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that His Excellency the Governor General will proceed to the Senate Chamber, to open the Fourth Session of the Ninth Parliament of the Dominion of Canada, on Friday, the 11th instant, at Three o'clock, P.M.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

F. S. MAUDE, Major,

Governor General's Secretary.

The Honourable

The Speaker of the Senate.

The Senate was adjourned during pleasure.

After some time the Senate was resumed.

His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir Gilbert John Elliot, Earl of Minto and Viscount Melgund of Melgund, County of Forfar, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom, Baron Minto of Minto, County of Roxburgh, in the Peerage of Great Britain, Baronet of Nova Scotia, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, &c., &c., Governor General of Canada, being seated on the Throne.

The Honourable 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,

The Honourable Napoleon Antoine Belcourt, said:—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

The House of Commons have elected me as their Speaker, though I am but little able to fulfil the important duties thus assigned to me.

If in the performance of those duties, I should at any time fall into error, I pray that the fault may be imputed to me, and not to the Commons, whose servant I am.

The Honourable the Speaker of the Senate then said:—

MR. SPEAKER,—I am commanded by His Excellency the Governor General to assure you that your words and actions will constantly receive from him the most favourable construction.

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:

In again meeting you in Parliament, it is our first duty to express our heartfelt thanks to a beneficent Providence for the abundant harvest with which the country has been favoured during the past year, and for the general prosperity that prevails in all parts of the Dominion.

It is very gratifying to note that the yearly increasing trade of Canada which has been so marked a feature of the past six years, gives no indication of any abatement,