

ing any delay in the great object of the early completion of the railway demands our earnest consideration.

We share the pleasure with which Your Excellency is able to state that the operation of that portion of the railway already opened affords the most gratifying evidence of its soundness as a commercial enterprise and of its great value to *Canada*.

It gratifies us to know that the large increase of the volume of traffic on the Intercolonial Railway over that of any previous year, without involving any burden upon the country, is, as Your Excellency is pleased to observe, a satisfactory proof of the continued development of trade between the eastern and western portions of the Dominion.

The provisional arrangement made with the Government of *Nova Scotia* for the retention of the Pictou Branch and the acquisition of the Eastern Extension Railway to the Strait of *Canso*, which Your Excellency has stated will be submitted for our approval, shall be carefully considered by us.

Your Excellency may rest assured that we will devote ourselves with earnestness and assiduity to the consideration of the subjects Your Excellency has mentioned, and to all matters affecting the public interests that may be brought before us.

After Debate,

The question of concurrence being put thereon, the same was unanimously resolved in the affirmative.

*Ordered*, That the said Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General by such Members of this House as are Members of the Privy Council.

The Honorable the Speaker presented to the House,—The Report of the Clerk respecting the absence of the Honorable *Walter Hamilton Dickson*.

The same was then read by the Clerk, and is as follows :—

CLERK'S OFFICE,  
JANUARY 23rd, 1884.

In conformity with the 10th Rule of the Senate, I have the honor to report for the information of the House, that the Honorable *Walter Hamilton Dickson*, Member of the Senate for the Province of *Ontario*, has been absent from his seat in this House for the last two consecutive Sessions of Parliament.

Firstly :—For and during the Fourth Session of the Fourth Parliament which was opened on the Ninth day of February, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-two, and prorogued on the Seventeenth day of May of the same year.

Secondly.—For and during the First Session of the Fifth Parliament which was opened on the Eighth day of February, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-three, and prorogued on the Twenty-fifth day of May of the same year.

EDOUARD J. LANGEVIN,  
*Clerk of the Senate.*

*Ordered*, That the same do lie on the Table.

On motion of the Honorable Sir *Alexander Campbell*, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Smith*, it was

*Ordered*, That the Report of the Clerk be referred to the Committee appointed to consider the Orders and Customs of this House and Privileges of Parliament; the Committee to meet to-morrow, at a quarter to Three o'clock, P.M., in the Senate Chamber.

Then, on motion of the Honorable Sir *Alexander Campbell*, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Smith*,

The House adjourned.