

The Honourable the Speaker then acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Senate had laid upon the Table the Certificate of one of the Commissioners setting forth that the Honourable Mr. Burpee, a Member of the Senate, had made and subscribed the Declaration of Qualification required by the British North America Act, 1867.

The Honourable the Speaker presented to the Senate a communication from the Governor General's Secretary.

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

OTTAWA, 29th January, 1900.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that His Excellency the Governor General will proceed to the Senate Chamber, to open the Session of the Dominion Parliament, on Thursday, the 1st February, at Three o'clock, P.M.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

HARRY GRAHAM, Captain, A.D.C.,
for the Governor General's Secretary.

The Honourable
The Speaker of the Senate.

The House was adjourned during pleasure.

After some time the House 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,

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 :

It is again my pleasing duty to congratulate you on the continued prosperity of the Dominion and on the remarkable increase in the general volume of the revenue and of the exports and imports of the country.

Hostilities having unfortunately broken out during the recess between Great Britain and the South African Republic, it appeared to my Ministers expedient to anticipate the action of Parliament by equipping and forwarding two contingents of volunteers to the seat of war as a practical evidence of the profound devotion and loyalty of the entire people of Canada to the Sovereign and institutions of the British Empire.

In this connection it is a matter of pride and gratification to the people of this Dominion that, in addition to the contingents sent by the Government, another Canadian force is being organized and despatched at the personal expense of the High Commissioner of Canada. This generous and patriotic action upon the part of Lord Strathcona reflects high honour on him and on the Dominion he represents.