

make ample provision for the steadily increasing stream of settlers that may hereafter be annually expected to add to the population, wealth and strength of the Dominion.

5. The compilation of the first census of the Dominion approaches completion, and this would therefore, seem a fitting time to provide for the establishment of a proper system for the accurate collection and scientific arrangement of statistical information. I commend this subject to your attention.

6. It is important that provision should be made for the consolidation and amendment of the laws, now in force in the several Provinces, relating to the representation of the people in Parliament. A measure for this purpose, and one for the trial of Controverted Elections, will be submitted for your consideration.

7. Your attention will be invited to measures for the amendment of the Laws relating to Pilots, to Salvage, and to the Trinity Houses of Montreal and Quebec, as well as for the improvement of the Laws generally, affecting our Merchant Shipping.

8. Experience has shown that the duties now performed in the Offices of the Secretary of State, and the Secretary for the Provinces, may be readjusted with advantage to the public service. A Bill on the subject will be laid before you.

9. Among other measures, bills will be presented to you relating to the Criminal Law, to Weights and Measures, and to the amendment and consolidation of the Inspection Laws.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

10. I have given directions that the accounts of the past, and of the first six months of the present financial year, shall be laid before you without delay. You will be gratified to learn that the finances of the Dominion are in a prosperous condition, and that there is no reason to doubt that the revenue will be sufficient to meet all contemplated charges upon it.

The Estimates for the ensuing year, which will be submitted to you, have been prepared with as much regard to economy as is compatible with the efficiency of the public service, and I venture to hope that you will be of opinion that the supplies which my Government will ask you to vote, can be granted without inconvenience to the people.

Hon. Gentlemen of the Senate; Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

11. Many of the subjects I have enumerated are of the greatest importance. It is with full confidence in your patriotism and wisdom that I commend them to your consideration, and I trust that a Gratuitous Providence may guide your Counsels in whatever may best promote the happiness of the people of Canada and the welfare of the Empire at large.

The SPEAKER and members having returned from the Senate chamber, **The SPEAKER** made the usual formal declarations at the opening of Parliament.

OATH OF OFFICE

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved, seconded by **Hon. Mr. HOWE** for leave to introduce a Bill respecting the administration of oaths of office. The Bill was read a first time.

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ELECTION WRIT

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved, seconded by **Hon. Mr. LANGEVIN** that the Speaker do issue his warrant to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery for the issue of a writ for the election of a member for the electoral district of Quebec in place of Hon. J. P. O. Chauveau, summoned to the Senate.—Carried.

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THE SPEECH

The reading of the Speech was dispensed with.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved, seconded by **Hon. Mr. HOWE**, that the Speech of His Excellency be taken into consideration tomorrow.—Carried.

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VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved, seconded by **Hon. Mr. HOWE** that the votes and proceedings of this House be printed being first perused by the Speaker, and that he appoint the printing thereof, and that no person but such as he appoints shall presume to print the same.—Carried.

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COMMITTEES

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved, seconded by **Hon. Mr. HOWE**, that the Select Standing Committees of this House for the present session be appointed for the following purposes: Privileges and elections, railway, canal and telegraph lines, miscellaneous, private bills, standing orders, printing, public accounts, banking and commerce, immigration and colonization, and that the said committees shall severally be empowered to examine and enquire into all such matters and things as may be referred to them by the House, and shall from time to time report their observations and opinions therein, and shall have power to send for persons, papers and records.—Carried.

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CORRUPT PRACTICES

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved, seconded by **Hon. Mr. HOWE**, that it be resolved that if anything shall come in question touching the return or election of any member, he is to withdraw during the time the matter is in debate; and all members returned on double returns are to withdraw until their returns are determined; that if it shall appear that any person hath been elected or returned a member of this House, or hath endeavoured so to be,