

Ottawa, 15th November, 1911.

Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that His Royal Highness the Governor General will proceed to the Senate Chamber formally to open the session of the Dominion Parliament on Thursday, the 16th inst., at three o'clock.

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

H. C. LOWTHER, Lt.-Col.,
Governor General's Secretary.

The Honourable the Speaker
of the House of Commons.

A message was delivered by J. de St. Denis LsMoine, Esquire, Acting Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, His Royal Highness the Governor General desires the immediate attendance of your honourable House in the Chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly the House went up to the Senate Chamber.

Then the Hon. Thomas Simpson Sproule, Speaker elect, said:

May it please Your Royal Highness:

The House of Commons have elected me 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, and who, through me, the better to enable them to discharge their duty to their King and country, humbly claim all their undoubted rights and privileges, especially that they may have freedom of speech in their debates, access to your Royal Highness's person at all reasonable times, and that their proceedings may receive from your Royal Highness the most favourable consideration.

The Hon. the Speaker of the Senate then said:

Mr. Speaker, I am commanded by His Royal Highness the Governor General to declare to you that he freely confides in the duty and attachment of the House of Commons to His Majesty's Person and government, and not doubting that their proceedings will be conducted with wisdom, temper and prudence, he grants, and upon all occasions will recognize and allow their constitutional privileges.

I am commanded also to assure you, that the Commons shall have ready access to His Royal Highness upon all reasonable occasions, and that their proceedings, as well as your words and actions, will constantly receive from him his most favourable consideration.

Then His Royal Highness the Governor General was pleased to open parliament by a speech from the Throne.

And the House being returned to the Commons Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER. I have the honour to state that the House, having attended on His Royal Highness the Governor General in the Senate Chamber, I informed His Royal Highness that the choice of Speaker

Mr. SPEAKER.

had fallen on me, and, in your names, and on your behalf, I made the usual claim for your privileges which His Royal Highness was pleased to confirm to you.

THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

Mr. SPEAKER. I have the honour to inform the House that when the House did attend His Royal Highness the Governor General this day in the Senate Chamber, His Royal Highness was pleased to make a speech to both Houses of Parliament. To prevent mistakes I have obtained a copy, which is as follows:

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

It is with much satisfaction that I meet, for the first time, the parliament of Canada, and avail myself of your advice and assistance in the fulfilment of the important charge which has been entrusted to me by His Majesty the King. I can assure you that I esteem it a privilege to be called upon to administer the affairs of this prosperous and growing Dominion, and to associate myself with you in the important duties which you are about to approach.

It affords me great pleasure to congratulate you upon the continued and increasing prosperity of the country. Our trade, both with British and with foreign countries, is rapidly expanding, and there is every prospect that its volume in the present year will be largely in excess of that attained at any time in the past.

Although there has been some damage to the crops in certain districts, the harvest has on the whole been abundant, and it is believed that the returns to the husbandman will exceed those secured in any previous year.

The results of the census taken during the present year will be laid before you, so far as they have been tabulated. While the increase in population has not fulfilled all the sanguine expectations that had been formed, yet it has been substantial and encouraging.

You will be pleased to learn that the revenues for the current fiscal year have, up to the present, largely exceeded those during any similar period in the past, with every prospect that this increase will be maintained.

The advantages that would result from a wider exchange of products between the various countries of the empire are undoubted, in view of the wonderful variety and extent of those productions, and negotiations have been opened for improved trade arrangements with the British West Indies and British Guiana, which should prove advantageous to those colonies as well as to this Dominion.

The importance of providing our country with better highways is manifest. A Bill will be introduced for the purpose of enabling the Dominion to co-operate with the provinces in the accomplishment of this desirable object.

It is essential to recognize that, in a country possessing so great an area of fertile land as that with which this Dominion is happily endowed, the great basic industry is agriculture. My advisers are convinced that the time has come when greater aid and encour-