

The Honorable the Speaker acquainted the House, that the Clerk of the Senate had laid upon the Table a Certificate of the Commissioner, setting forth that the Honorable *Jedediah Slason Carvell*, a Member of the Senate, had made and subscribed the Declaration of Qualification required by the *British North America Act, 1867*.

The House was adjourned during pleasure,

After some time the House was resumed.

His Excellency the Right Honorable Sir JOHN DOUGLAS SUTHERLAND CAMPBELL (commonly called the Marquis of *Lorne*), Knight of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of *St. Michael* and *St. George*, Governor General of *Canada*, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c., &c., &c., being seated in the Chair on the Throne,

The Honorable the Speaker commanded the Gentlemen 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 :*

I have great pleasure in meeting you again for the despatch of the business of the country.

The abundant harvest with which Providence has blessed *Canada* is a cause for the deepest thankfulness; and I heartily congratulate you on the evidences which surround us of a recovery from the commercial and industrial depression which has so long weighed down the energies of the people.

Our returning prosperity should, I think, direct our attention to the less fortunate circumstances of our fellow subjects in Ireland, where so much destitution prevails, and I invite your consideration of the best means of shewing our practical sympathy with their distress.

We have reason to congratulate ourselves on the number of settlers who have during the past year come into our *North-West* from *Great Britain* and the *United States*, as well as from the older Provinces of the Dominion. The visit of two members of the Royal Commission on the agricultural distress in the Mother Country, and the favourable report of the tenant farmers who, at the instance of my Government, have examined into the farming capabilities of the Dominion, will, it is believed, largely increase the number of immigrants during the present year. Preparations must be made for their reception, and your attention will be specially called to this subject.

Every effort has been made to hasten the construction of the Canadian *Pacific* Railway from *Lake Superior* to *Red River*, and no doubt is entertained that the railway will be opened for traffic between those important points within the time specified in the contracts. Under the authority given by Parliament last Session, nearly one hundred miles from *Red River* to the Western Boundary of *Manitoba* has been placed under contract, and tenders are about being asked for, for the construction of another hundred miles from the boundary westward. The completion of these two sections will at an early day afford railway facilities through two hundred miles of the most fertile land in the *North-West*. After an exploratory survey of the line from *Port Simpson* to the *Pine River Pass*, and through the *Peace River* country, it has been decided to adopt the location of the line to *Burrard Inlet*, and contracts have been awarded for one hundred and twenty-seven miles of the railway between *Emory's Bar*, on the *Fraser River*, and *Savona's Ferry*. This work will be vigorously proceeded