

House of Commons Debates

FOURTH SESSION, FIFTH PARLIAMENT.--49 VIC.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, 25th February, 1886.

THE PARLIAMENT, which had been prorogued from time to time, was now commanded to assemble on the 25th day of February, 1886, for the despatch of business.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at fifteen minutes before Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

A Message was delivered by René Edouard Kimber, Esquire, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod:

"Mr. SPEAKER,—

"His Excellency the GOVERNOR GENERAL desires the immediate attendance of this honorable House in the Senate Chamber."

Accordingly the House went up to the Senate Chamber.

And the House being returned,

VACANCIES.

Mr. SPEAKER informed the House that he had received the following notifications of vacancies which had occurred in the representation:—

Of ARTHUR T. B. WILLIAMS, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of the East Riding of the County of Durham, by decease;

Of THOMAS WHITE, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of the County of Cardwell, by the acceptance of an office of emolument under the Crown;

Of ANGUS McISAAC, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of Antigonish, by the acceptance of an office of emolument under the Crown;

Of the Hon. Sir S. LEONARD TILLEY, K.C.M.G., Member for the Electoral District of the City of St. John, New Brunswick, by the acceptance of an office of emolument under the Crown; and

Of GEORGE E. FOSTER, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of King's, New Brunswick, by the acceptance of an office of emolument under the Crown.

NEW MEMBERS.

Mr. SPEAKER also informed the House that, during the Recess, the Clerk of The House had received from the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, certificates of election and return of the following Members, viz.:—

Of HENRY ALFRED WARD, Esq., for the Electoral District of the East Riding of the County of Durham;

Of the Hon. THOMAS WHITE, for the Electoral District of the County of Cardwell;

Of the Hon. JOHN S. D. THOMPSON, for the Electoral District of Antigonish;

Of CHARLES A. EVERETT, Esq., for the Electoral District of the City and County of St. John, New Brunswick;

Of FREDERICK E. BARKER, Esq., for the Electoral District of the City of St. John, New Brunswick; and

Of the Hon. GEORGE E. FOSTER, for the Electoral District of King's, New Brunswick.

MEMBERS INTRODUCED.

The following Members, having previously taken the Oath according to law, and subscribed the roll containing the same, took their seats in the House:—

Hon. THOMAS WHITE, Member for the Electoral District of Cardwell, introduced by Sir John A. Macdonald and Sir Hector Langevin;

Hon. JOHN S. D. THOMPSON, Member for the Electoral District of Antigonish, introduced by Sir John A. Macdonald and Hon. A. W. McLeisan.

Hon. GEORGE E. FOSTER, Member for the Electoral District of King's, N.B., introduced by Sir John A. Macdonald and Hon. John Costigan.

CHARLES EVERETT, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of the City and County of St. John, N.B., introduced by Sir John A. Macdonald and Hon. John Costigan.

FREDERICK E. BARKER, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of the City of St. John, N.B., introduced by Hon. Mr. Bowell and Mr. Wood (Westmoreland).

HENRY ALFRED WARD, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of the East Riding of Durham, introduced by Sir John A. Macdonald and Mr. Mackintosh.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS OF OFFICE.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD introduced Bill (No. 1) respecting the Administration of Oaths of Office.

Bill read the first time.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

Mr. SPEAKER. I have the honor to inform this House, that when the House attended His Excellency the Governor General this day in the Senate Chamber, His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of Parliament, and, to prevent mistakes, I have obtained a copy of the Speech, which is as follows:—

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

On meeting you again I have the pleasing duty to perform of congratulating you on the sufficient harvest of last year and on the prosperity and substantial progress of the country.

Since the suppression of the insurrection in the North-West Territories peace and order have been restored and now prevail. After so serious an outbreak some disquiet and apprehension of the recurrence of those disorders may naturally be expected to linger, and it will be the duty of my Government to make such precautionary arrangements as will assure the present inhabitants, as well as intending settlers of efficient protection against all disturbance.

I warmly congratulate you on the practical completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and on the announcement that it will be open for the daily carriage of passengers and freight from Ocean to Ocean, in the month of June next. This great work, so important alike to the Empire and the Dominion, cannot fail to increase the trade between British Columbia and the other Provinces, to ensure the early development and settlement of Manitoba and the North-West, and greatly to add to the commercial prosperity of the whole country.

Should the negotiations between Her Majesty's Government and that of the United States for the appointment of a Joint Commission to adjust what is known as "The Fishery Question" and to consider the best means of developing our International Commerce, fail to secure any satisfactory result, you will be asked to make provision for the