

Country, humbly claim all their undoubted rights and privileges, especially that they may have freedom of Speech in their Debates, access to Your Excellency's person at all seasonable times, and that their proceedings may receive from Your Excellency the most favorable consideration.

Then the Honorable the Speaker of the Senate said :—

MR. SPEAKER :—

I am commanded by His Excellency the Governor General to declare to you that he freely confides in the duty and attachment of the House of Commons to Her 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 Excellency upon all seasonable occasions, and that their proceedings, as well as your words and actions, will constantly receive from him the most favorable construction.

The House being returned ;

Mr. Speaker reported, That the House had been in the Senate Chamber, and that he had informed His Excellency that the choice of Speaker had fallen upon him, and also in the name of this House, and on its behalf, he had laid claim to all their rights and privileges, that they may enjoy freedom of Speech in their Debates, and have access to His Excellency's person as occasion shall require, and that all their proceedings may receive from His Excellency the most favorable construction ; to which His Excellency was pleased to say, that he readily and willingly granted and allowed the Commons their constitutional privileges, as well as ready access to His Excellency on all seasonable occasions, and that their proceedings, as well as their words and actions, will constantly receive from him the most favorable construction.

*Ordered,* That the Honorable Mr. Mackenzie have leave to bring in a Bill respecting the administration of Oaths of Office.

He accordingly presented the said Bill to the House, and the same was received and read the first time.

Mr. Speaker reported, That when the House did attend His Excellency the Governor General, this day, in the Senate Chamber, His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of Parliament, of which Mr. Speaker said he had, to prevent mistakes, obtained a copy, which he read to the House, as followeth :—

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate ;*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

I have convoked Parliament at the earliest moment consistent with the delay entailed by the recent dissolution.

Your attention will be invited during the present Session to measures having reference to the Representation of the People in Parliament, embracing the system now prevailing in Great Britain, and in most other Countries enjoying Constitutional Government, of taking votes by Ballot, and to the establishment of a General Court of Appeal.

Measures will also be submitted to you for the amendment of the Laws relating to Controverted Elections, the Militia, and Insolvency.

The enactment of 1872, respecting the Canadian Pacific Railway, having failed to secure the prosecution of that great enterprise, you will be called upon to consider what plan will best and most speedily provide the means of trans-continental communication with British Columbia. A report of the Chief Engineer will be laid before you, showing what progress was made during the past year in the surveys connected with the proposed