

The House was adjourned during pleasure.

After some time the House was resumed.

His Excellency the Right Honorable Sir Frederick Arthur Stanley, Baron Stanley of Preston, in the County of Lancaster, in the Peerage of Great Britain, Knight of the Grand Cross of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Governor General of Canada, and Vice Admiral of the same, being seated in the Chair on the Throne.

The Honorable the Speaker commanded the Gentleman 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.

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate :*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

In calling you together again for the consideration of Public Affairs, I may fairly congratulate you on a continuance of the progress and prosperity of the Country.

During the recess I visited Manitoba, and the North-West Territories and British Columbia, and everywhere I found myself received with the loyalty and good-will which I have learned to be characteristic of Canada. A comparison of my own observations with those of my predecessors shows clearly the great progress which has marked this part of the Dominion, in the settlement of the Country and in the development of its great agricultural capabilities, of mineral wealth and of its other natural resources.

In consequence of the repeated seizures by Cruisers of the United States Navy of Canadian Vessels, while employed in the capture of seals in that part of the Northern Pacific Ocean, known as Behring Sea, my Government has strongly represented to Her Majesty's Ministers, the necessity of protecting our shipping, while engaged in their lawful calling, as well as of guarding against the assumption by any nation of exclusive proprietary rights in those waters. I feel confident that those representations have had due weight, and I hope to be enabled during the present Session to assure you that all differences on this question are in the course of satisfactory adjustment.

Having observed the close attention which has recently been given by the Imperial Authorities and on the Continent of Europe to the improvement in the methods of catching, curing and packing fish, I deemed it expedient to cause a Commission to be sent to Scotland and Holland to examine and report upon this subject during the fishing season. The report of the delegates will be laid before you ; it will, I am sure, give our Fishermen most valuable information and instruction as to the best means of improving and developing this important industry.

My Ministers have carefully considered the difficulties which surround the administration of the rights of the Dominion in its foreshores, harbors, lakes and rivers, and a measure will be submitted to you for removing uncertainty as to the respective rights of the Dominion and of the Provinces, and for preventing confusion in the titles thereto.

The report of the Royal Commission on Labor, which was laid before you during the last Session, has been distributed throughout the country. I have reason to believe that the information which it contains will be found eminently useful in suggesting improvements in the administration of the laws which affect the working classes. Measures for the amendment of those laws, so far as they come within the jurisdiction of the Parliament of Canada, will be submitted for your consideration.