

the official figures of the vote will be placed before you.

I observe with pleasure that the Mother Country, Canada and other British possessions have recently adopted a Penny Postage letter rate. The satisfaction with which this action has been received by the Canadian people is a further proof of the general desire existing amongst our people for closer relations with the Mother Country and the rest of the Empire.

I am also glad to be able to state that the satisfactory condition of the finances of the country permitted a reduction, on the first of January last, of the Canadian domestic letter rate, from three to two cents and although such reduction involves a temporary loss of revenue, it is nevertheless confidently expected that the cheapened rate will prove of such service in the promotion of trade and in the general interchange of correspondence that, within a reasonable time, the revenue of the Post Office Department will be restored to its former figure.

Much information has been obtained since you last met relative to the extent and value of the deposits of gold and valuable minerals in the Yukon and other parts of Canada. The returns from the Yukon have so far proved sufficient to meet the heavy expenditure it was found necessary to incur for the purpose of preserving law and order, and it has been thought expedient in the public interest to authorize the construction of a line of telegraph for the purpose of maintaining speedy communication with the people of those distant territories.

A measure will be submitted to you for the better arrangement of the electoral districts throughout the Dominion, as also several enactments of less importance.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons :

The public accounts will be laid before you, and also the estimates for the coming year. They have been prepared with a due regard to efficiency and economy, and the responsibilities arising from the rapid progress of the country.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate :

Gentlemen of the House of Commons :

I am confident that the important subjects I have mentioned to you will receive your serious consideration, and that it will be your earnest endeavour to promote the public interests and prosperity of Canada.

His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to retire, and the House of Commons withdrew.

NEW SENATORS.

Hon. JAMES W. CARMICHAEL, of New Glasgow, N.S., and

Hon. JOHN YEO, of Prince Edward Island, were introduced and took their seats.

BILL INTRODUCED.

"An Act relating to Railways."—(Hon. Mr. Mills.)

The Senate adjourned.

THE SENATE.

Ottawa, Monday, March 20th, 1899.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at three o'clock.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

NEW SENATORS.

Hon. William Kerr, of the town of Cobourg, Ontario, and Hon. Joseph Arthur Paquet, of the city of Quebec, were introduced and took their seats.

THE ADDRESS.

The Order of the Day being called,

Consideration of the speech of His Excellency the Governor General on the opening of Parliament,

Hon. Mr. KERR said: Gentlemen of the Senate, encouraged and inspired by those immortal words, spoken long ago, that "England expects every man this day to do his duty", encouraged also by what I know, that I will receive the sympathy and consideration which this honourable body always gives to the youngest born of the family, further sustained by the pleasing thought that I, in a sense, speak not only for my honoured leader in this House, but for the government, acknowledged, I suppose, pretty generally, to be one of the best governments that this Dominion has ever had. With these sustaining thoughts, perhaps this House would permit me to tender thus publicly to the government my profound appreciation of the great honour which they have conferred upon me by calling me to this honourable Senate. Whether my days in this House shall be many or few, I hope, at least, they will be sufficiently long, and that my deportment and my attention and devotion to duty will be such as to afford some testimony—I would hope ample testimony—not only to the government, but, what is even more important, to my fellow Canadians, that in thus honouring me the government have made no mistake. Before asking this honourable body to assent to a motion that an Address from this House be presented to His Excellency in reply to the gracious speech with which His Excellency was pleased to open the fourth session of the eighth Parliament of the Dominion I hope and know I need but make a respectful re-