



# The Volunteer Review

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### NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The Dominion Parliament was opened on Friday the 27th inst., at 3 o'clock P.M. by His Excellency the Governor General; who was attended by a brilliant Staff. His Excellency having taken his seat on the Throne in the Senate Chamber, commanded the attendance of the House of Commons. The members of that body, preceded by their Speaker, the Hon T. W. Anglin, appeared at the Bar, who informed His Excellency that the choice of the House of Commons had fallen upon him to be their Speaker, and prayed for the Members thereof the customary Parliamentary privileges. After which His Excellency was pleased to deliver the following Speech:—

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

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 line. The destruction of the Railway Office by fire involved a serious loss of maps, plans and papers, the possession of which would have made the report more complete.

The Canal and Harbor improvements are being vigorously prosecuted, with a view to ensure adequate accommodation for the rapidly growing trade of the country.

The report of the Chief Engineer of the Department of Public Works on the proposed Canal between the Gulf of St. Law-

rence and the Bay of Fundy will be submitted for your consideration.

With the progress already made in the construction of the Intercolonial Railway another year will be required to complete it. A report indicating its actual condition will be laid before Parliament, and a measure will be introduced to vest in the Department of Public Works the powers now exercised by the Board of Railway Commissioners.

The question of compensation due to the Dominion for the Fishery privileges conceded to the United States by the Treaty of Washington, has given rise to a renewal of negotiations tending to widen reciprocal trade relations with that country. At the instance of my Government, the Imperial authorities have given directions to the British Minister to discuss the whole subject with the Administration at Washington and have associated with him for this purpose a Canadian Commissioner.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

The accounts of the last financial year will be laid before you, as well as a statement of the receipts and expenditure of the present year to the latest practical period.

I regret to state that the receipts of the current year will not be sufficient to meet the expenditure. It will therefore be necessary for you to consider the best means to be adopted for making good the annual deficit.

The estimates for the ensuing year will be laid before you. They have been prepared with as much regard to economy as is consistent with the efficiency of the Public Service.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons.

The combined efforts of the Dominion and Provincial Governments to promote Immigration have met with a reasonable measure of success, thus adding a considerable number of desirable persons from other countries to our industrial population.

Notwithstanding the commercial depression which, through exceptional causes prevailed to some extent during the past year, it is satisfactory to know that the general prosperity was not thereby seriously affected. I do not doubt but that as the great natural resources of the Dominion become more widely appreciated, the results will be a healthy stimulus to the enterprise and energy of our people and a still larger accession to our numbers.

I trust that your deliberations may be directed by wisdom and aided by Divine Providence.

So far as can be judged from the European papers and telegrams, the Republican forces in Spain are getting hard knocks from their Carlist opponents. Gen. Moriones has suffered a severe defeat, so that Gen. Moriones has had so much bad luck against the Carlists, and has recently suffered such a severe defeat, that the Government at Madrid has at last begun to feel the need of taking decisive measures, and, according to the latest accounts, Marshal Serrano had himself taken the field at the head of about 34,000 men, and was confronting a nearly equal force of Carlists; and, if decisive battles ever occurred in Spain, we should say that one was now impending. Serrano is not a bad soldier but he has to contend with a force which, though it is poorly equipped and poorly led, represents nearly the whole of that portion of the Spanish population which, as Cromwell said, "knows what it is fighting for, and loves what it knows."

At a meeting of leading Irish Members of Parliament on the 25th it was unanimously resolved to press the subject of Home Rule during the present session, notwithstanding the failure of Dr. Butt's amendment to the address.

At a public meeting on the 25th Mr. Mundell made a speech, in the course of which he declared it to be his conviction that the party in the United States which abolished slavery would yet succeed in establishing arbitration as a method of settling disputes between nations.

Reginald Brougham, son of the late Lord Brougham, recently at the risk of his own life, saved two men from drowning.

The *Venice Mail* is an English penny newspaper just started in Venice. What will the shades of Othello, Iago and Shylock say to the innovation?

Two courses of instruction for English naval officers in electricity and torpedo management will take place this year on board the *Vernon* at Portsmouth.

According to the *Imparcial*, steps have been taken to organize a Spanish society for the protection of animals, which will endeavour, above all, to put down bull-fights and cock-fights.

The Sandwich Islanders have evidently but little idea of annexing to the United States. At the late election of a Logiala-turo not a foreigner was chosen, and the high chief Kalakana, who is probably king, is a strong nationalist, and a man of firm will.

The Sultan of Morocco has broken up the harem of his father, and will keep only one wife.

Thirty thousand unemployed workmen in Vienna have petitioned the Government for relief.