

October 23, 1873

The extension of the bounds of the Dominion has caused a corresponding increase in the work of administration, and seems to call for additional assistance in Parliament as well as in Executive Government. A Bill on this subject will be laid before you.

Your attention will be invited to the consideration of a Bill for the establishment of a General Court of Appeal.

Measures relating to our navigable waters and to the Inspection Laws, will be laid before you; as also, a Bill for the establishment of a Dominion Board of Agriculture.

The subject of the law relating to insolvency will necessarily engage your attention.

The efforts made by the several Provinces, as well as by the Dominion, to encourage immigration, have met with success, and a large number of valuable settlers has been added to our population. I do not doubt that you will continue your liberal aid to this important object.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:—

I have directed that the accounts of the past financial year be laid before you. The prosperous condition of our finances continues, and the revenue has been sufficient to meet all charges upon it.

The estimates for the ensuing year will be laid before you. They have been prepared with due regard to economy as well as to the efficiency of the public service; and I trust that the supplies which are necessary, will be granted without inconvenience to the people.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

Your best attention will, I doubt not, be devoted to the important interests committed to your charge, and I am confident that your deliberations will redound to the advantage and prosperity of the country.

The Commons then retired to their Chamber, and the ceremonial was brought to a conclusion in the usual manner.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

The Commons assembled in their Chamber, and shortly after three o'clock the usual three raps were heard at the door, announcing the arrival of the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, who was admitted, made his bows, delivered his message, and departed, followed by a noisy crowd of members to the Senate Chamber.

The members having returned from the Senate Chamber, and the doors having been opened, the first business was the introduction of the new members:

Hon. Mr. LAIRD was introduced by Right Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald and Mr. Palmer.

Hon. Mr. POPE (Prince County) by Hon. Mr. Pope (Compton) and Mr. Crawford.

Mr. YEO by Hon. Mr. McDonald (Antigonish) and Hon. Mr. Robinson.

Mr. SINCLAIR by Hon. Messrs. Langevin and Gibbs (Ontario South).

Mr. MACDONALD (King's County) by Hon. Mr. Mitchell and Mr. De Cosmos.

Mr. DAVIES by Hon. Messrs. Tupper and Carling.

Mr. APPLEBY by Hon. Mr. Smith (Westmorland) and Mr. Burpee (Sunbury).

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD then communicated the following messages from His Excellency:—

Papers relating to the Act 36 Vic., Cap., 1, providing for the examination of witnesses under oath in certain cases.

Papers relative to the prorogation of Parliament on the 13th of August last.

Papers relative to the issuance of the Royal Commission.

Despatch from Earl Kimberly to the Governor General in reply to despatches of the 15th and 18th of August.

[Editor's note: A selection from these papers will be found at the end of the report at the proceedings of 23rd October. The correspondence laid before the House on 23 October is printed in full in *Journals of the House of Commons*, Second Session, 1873, pp 5-119.]

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD here said that these despatches were very important, they contained matters of the greatest interest; and in the opinion of the Government it would be impossible to discuss some of the topics touched upon in the address, until the hon. members had had an opportunity of reading them. He therefore moved, that the Speech from the Throne be taken into consideration on Monday next.