

three o'clock, in the afternoon, His Excellency will declare the causes of his calling this Parliament.

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

Then, on motion of the Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL, seconded by the Hon. Mr. AIKINS, the House adjourned until tomorrow, at half-past two o'clock in the afternoon.

Ottawa, Thursday, 6th March, 1873.

His Excellency the GOVERNOR GENERAL, at three o'clock p.m., this day, proceeded in state to the Chamber of the Senate, and having taken his seat upon the Throne, His Excellency commanded the attendance of the House of Commons. The members of that body, preceded by their Speaker, the Honorable James Cockburn, appeared at the Bar. The Honorable James Cockburn then informed His Excellency that the choice of the House of Commons had fallen upon him to be their Speaker, and he prayed for the members thereof the customary Parliamentary privileges.

After which His Excellency was pleased to deliver the following

SPEECH.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate, Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

1. In addressing for the first time the Parliament of Canada, I desire to express the satisfaction I feel in resorting to your advice and assistance, as well as my deep sense of my own good fortune in being permitted to associate myself with you in your labours and aspirations for the welfare of this Dominion.

I rejoice to think that my assumption of office should have taken place at a period when the prospects of the country appear so full of promise, when peace and amity prevail amongst all neighbouring nations, and when so many indications are afforded of the success with which Canada herself is consolidating her political unity and developing her material resources.

2. In accordance with the decision of Parliament, and to carry into effect the legislation of last session, I have caused a charter to be granted to a body of Canadian capitalists for the construction of the Pacific Railway. The Company now formed has given assurances that this great work will be vigorously prosecuted, and a favorable state of the money market in England affords every hope that satisfactory arrangements may be made for the

required capital. The papers and correspondence relating to this subject will be laid before you.

3. During the past year the surveys for the improvement and extension of our system of Canals, for which appropriations were made last Session, have been in active preparation; and I am glad to inform you that the plans and specifications for the enlargement of the Welland and the construction of the Baie Verte Canals have been completed, and that the works can now be put under contract.

The surveys for the St. Lawrence Canals which I am assured, be finished in time to commence the works at the beginning of next year. This will insure the completion of all these great undertakings at the same period.

4. It is gratifying to know that the efforts made to encourage immigration have met with a great measure of success, and that the numbers seeking a home in Canada have been greatly augmented during the last year. I do not doubt your readiness to make ample provision for the steadily increasing stream of settlers that may hereafter be annually expected to add to the population, wealth and strength of the Dominion.

5. The compilation of the first census of the Dominion approaches completion, and this would therefore, seem a fitting time to provide for the establishment of a proper system for the accurate collection and scientific arrangement of statistical information. I commend this subject to your attention.

6. It is important that provision should be made for the consolidation and amendment of the laws, now in force in the several Provinces, relating to the representation of the people in Parliament. A measure for this purpose, and one for the trial of Controverted Elections, will be submitted for your consideration.

7. Your attention will be invited to measures for the amendment of the Laws relating to Pilots, to Salvage, and to the Trinity Houses of Montreal and Quebec, as well as for the improvement of the Laws generally, affecting our Merchant Shipping.

8. Experience has shown that the duties now performed in the Offices of the Secretary of State, and the Secretary for the Provinces, may be readjusted with advantage to the public service. A Bill on the subject will be laid before you.

9. Among other measures, bills will be presented to you relating to the Criminal Law, to Weights and Measures, and to the