

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, March 6, 1873

**Mr. PATRICK**, the recently appointed Clerk, called the members to order, and intimated that the first duty was the election of a Speaker.

**Hon. Mr. COCKBURN (Northumberland West)** was the Government nominee, and he was elected without any opposition.

The House then adjourned at half past two o'clock p.m.

The House being met; and Mr. Speaker elect having taken the Chair.

A Message was brought by **Mr. RENÉ KIMBER**, Esquire, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod.

### The SPEAKER:

His Excellency the **GOVERNOR GENERAL** desires the immediate attendance of this Honourable House in the Senate Chamber.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker elect, with the House, went to Senate Chamber.

And there Mr. Speaker spoke to the following effect, viz:

### *MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:*

The House of Commons have elected me as their Speaker, though I am but little able to fulfil the important duties thus assigned to me.

If, in the performance of those duties, I should at any time fall into error, I pray that the fault may be imputed to me, and not to the Commons, whose servant I am.

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*Prayers*

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### SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

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 this Speaker,

the Hon. Mr. James Cockburn, appeared at the Bar. The Hon. Mr. 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 address.

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 decisions 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 favourable 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 will 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