

Pursuant to the Order of the Day, the Senate resumed the adjourned Debate on the Honourable Mr. Primrose's motion, viz. :—

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General, to offer the respectful thanks of this House to His Excellency for the gracious Speech he has been pleased to make to both Houses of Parliament, namely :—

To His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir JOHN CAMPBELL HAMILTON-GORDON, Earl of Aberdeen; Viscount Formartine, Baron Haddo, Methlic, Tarves and Kellie, in the Peerage of Scotland; Viscount Gordon of Aberdeen, County of Aberdeen, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom; Baronet of Nova Scotia; Governor-General of Canada.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY :—

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Senate of Canada in Parliament assembled, humbly thank Your Excellency for your gracious Speech at the opening of this Session.

We gratefully acknowledge Your Excellency's expression of the satisfaction with which you again have recourse to our advice and assistance in the administration of the affairs of the Dominion.

We share most sincerely Your Excellency's feeling that, by the sudden and lamented death of the late Right Honourable Sir John Thompson, Canada has sustained a grievous loss. The deep and heartfelt sympathy expressed by Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, and the manifestations of sorrow with which the distressing intelligence was received throughout the Empire, as well as the tokens of esteem and respect everywhere paid to the memory of the deceased statesman, have been gratefully appreciated by the people of Canada.

We learn with much interest that, satisfactory assurances having been received from Her Majesty's Government respecting the interpretation of certain clauses in the Treaty of Commerce with France, ratifications will be exchanged as soon as the necessary legislation has been passed.

We are pleased to be informed by Your Excellency that the recent action of the Imperial Parliament enabling the various Australasian Governments to enter into preferential trade relations with the other self-governing Colonies of the Empire, affords gratifying proof that the suggestions of the Colonial Conference are being favourably entertained by Her Majesty's Government.

We thank Your Excellency for informing us that, in conformity with a recent judgment of the Lords of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, to the effect that the dissentient minority of the people of Manitoba have a constitutional right of appeal to the Governor-General in Council against certain Acts passed by the legislature of the province of Manitoba in relation to the subject of education, Your Excellency heard in Council the appeal, that your decision thereon has been communicated to the legislature of the said province, and that the papers on the subject will be laid before us.

We are glad to hear from Your Excellency that the depression in trade which has prevailed throughout the world for the past few years has made itself felt in Canada to a less degree than in most other countries. We regret, however, to learn that although this has not resulted in any considerable decrease in the volume of our foreign trade, yet, owing to low prices and recent reductions in and removal of taxation, it has been followed by a serious decrease in revenue derived from Customs and Excise. We respectfully concur in Your Excellency's opinion that, in order to produce equilibrium between revenue and expenditure for the coming year, it will be necessary to observe the greatest possible economy in the appropriations for the various branches of the public service.

We are greatly pleased to hear that, during the period that has elapsed since the last Session of Parliament, Your Excellency had an opportunity of visiting many portions of the Dominion, including the Maritime Provinces, Manitoba, the North-