

WALTER HUMPHRIES MONTAGUE, Esquire, Member for the Electoral District of the County of Haldimand, introduced by Sir John A. Macdonald and Hon. Mr. White.

EDWARD COCHRANE, Esquire, Member for the Electoral District of the East Riding of the County of Northumberland, Ont., introduced by Hon. Mr. Bowell and Mr. Guillet.

HONORÉ J. J. B. CHOUMINARD, Esquire, Member for the Electoral District of Dorchester, introduced by Mr. Laurier and Mr. Amyot.

DAVID HENDERSON, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of Halton, introduced by Mr. White (Cardwell) and Mr. Brown.

JOHN LOVITT, Esquire, Member for the Electoral District of Yarmouth, introduced by Mr. Laurier and Mr. Flynn.

JAMES ROWAND, Esquire, Member for the Electoral District of the West Riding of Bruce, introduced by Sir Richard Cartwright and Mr. Armstrong.

HERBERT LADD JONES, Esquire, Member for the Electoral District of Digby, introduced by Mr. McLelan and Mr. Mills (Annapolis).

JOHN ARCHIBALD McDONALD, Esquire, Member for the Electoral District of Victoria, N. S., introduced by Mr. Thompson and Mr. Cameron.

EDWARD GAWLOR PRIOR, Esquire, Member for the Electoral District of the City of Victoria, B. C., introduced by Sir John A. Macdonald and Mr. Daly.

FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 1) respecting the Administration of Oaths of Office.—(Sir John A. Macdonald.)

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

Mr. SPEAKER. I have the honor to inform the House that when the House did attend His Excellency the Governor General this day in the Senate Chamber, His Excellency was pleased to present a Speech to the Members of both Houses of Parliament. To prevent mistakes, I have obtained a copy of the Speech, which is as follows:—

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

It affords me much gratification to meet you once more at the commencement of the Parliamentary Session, and to congratulate you upon the general prosperity of the country.

Although the labors of the husbandman have not been rewarded in some portions of the Dominion by an adequate return, the harvest of last year has on the whole been plenteous, while in Manitoba and the North-West Territories it was one of remarkable abundance.

The negotiations between Her Majesty's Government and that of the United States for the adjustment of what is known as "The Fishery Question" have, I am pleased to inform you, resulted in a Treaty which will, I venture to hope, be considered by you as honorable and satisfactory to both nations.

The Treaty, with the papers and correspondence relating thereto, will be laid before you, and you will be invited to adopt a measure to give effect to its provisions.

The extension and development of our system of railways have not only rendered necessary additional safeguards for life and property, but have given greater frequency to questions in which the interests of rival companies are found to be in conflict, and to require authoritative adjustment. As further legislation appears to be needed for these purposes, a measure will be submitted to you for the consolidation and improvement of "The Railway Act."

Experience having shown that amendments are required to make the provisions of the Act respecting Elections of the Members of the House of Commons more effective and more convenient in their operation, you will be asked to consider a measure for the amendment of that Statute.

The Act respecting Controverted Elections may likewise require attention with a view to the removal of certain questions of interpretation which have arisen and which should be set at rest.

My Government has availed itself of the opportunity afforded by the recess to consider the numerous suggestions which have been made for improving the details of the Act respecting the Election Franchise, and

a measure will be submitted to you for the purpose of simplifying the law and greatly lessening the cost of its operation.

The growth of the North-West Territories renders expedient an improvement in the system of government and legislation affecting those portions of the Dominion, and a Bill for that purpose will be laid before you.

A Bill will be submitted to you to make a larger portion of the modern laws of England applicable to the Province of Manitoba and to the North-West Territories in regard to matters which are within the control of the Parliament of Canada, but which have not as yet been made the subject of Canadian legislation.

Among other measures, Bills will be presented to you relating to the Judiciary, to the Civil Service Act, and to the audit of the Public Accounts.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

The Accounts for the past year will be laid before you as well as the Estimates for the ensuing year. They have been prepared with a due regard to economy and the requirements of the public service.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

I commend these important subjects and all matters affecting the public interests which may be brought before you to your best consideration, and I feel assured that you will address yourselves to them with earnestness and assiduity.

Sir John A. Macdonald moved:

That the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General be taken into consideration to-morrow.

Motion agreed to.

SELECT STANDING COMMITTEES.

Sir John A. Macdonald moved:

That Select Standing Committees of this House, for the present Session, be appointed for the following purposes:—1. On Privileges and Elections.—2. On Expiring Laws.—3. On Railways, Canals and Telegraph Lines.—4. On Miscellaneous Private Bills.—5. On Standing Orders.—6. On Printing.—7. On Public Accounts.—8. On Banking and Commerce.—9. On Immigration and Colonisation;—which said Committees shall severally be empowered to examine and enquire into all such matters and things as may be referred to them by the House, and to report from time to time their observations and opinions thereon; with power to send for persons, papers and records.

Motion agreed to.

REPORT.

Report of the Joint Librarians of Parliament on the state of the Library.—(Mr. Speaker.)

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to; and House adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, 24th February, 1898.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

The House proceeded to the consideration of His Excellency's Speech at the opening of the Session.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Mr. Speaker, At the outset I must express my regret that from among the younger members