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## Opening of Parliament an Important Social Event

**Ancient and Picturesque Ceremony Described in an Interesting Way—Lord Willingdon Read the Speech From the Throne in English and French Languages—Many Beautiful Costumes Worn by Ladies.**

The opening of the Dominion Parliament is, very naturally, a profoundly interesting and impressive event to Canadians. It is to them even a momentous and significant event, full of possibilities—in the new session of the House—of legislation that may make or mar the country, of measures which may be brought into being, inimical or advantageous to Canada's welfare, or of policies of which Canadians may or may not be proud. For the work of the session is not all contained in the Speech from the Throne, and there is a certain anxiety in trying to foresee what may develop as the weeks pass.

Beautiful Occasion.  
But of the opening ceremony there can be felt nothing but pleasure. It is invariably an historically beautiful occasion of which all Canada may be justifiably proud. The noble building on Parliament Hill at Ottawa, in which the ancient and picturesque ceremonies take place—ceremonies which take the fortunate spectators back to the earlier days of our great race in the motherland, and connect their country with a venerable and honorable past; the distinction and dignity which mark the proceedings in the stately Senate Chamber; and the presence there of many of Canada's most distinguished men—men who have already a widespread reputation, and who have been figures of importance and weight in such a world assembly as the League of Nations—all these combine to fill the spectators with a keen sense of their country's responsible place in the great Empire of which she is so proudly the Premier Dominion.

New Gov. General.  
But when it happens that a new Governor General has arrived and will open the new session of a new Parliament, an added interest and éclat marks the event. This happened last week. Lord Willingdon, the recently appointed Governor General of Canada, opened the first session of the Sixteenth Parliament and read the pronouncement from the Throne in the beautiful, unaffected, well-modulated, English speech which is always a delight to discriminating ears, and with an enunciation so clean cut that each word had a value, and was heard to the last syllable. This he did a second time in an equally admirable French, before as impressive and as brilliant an audience as ever gathered in the Senate Chamber. The Viscount in his Court uniform was an arresting and intriguing figure, and fulfilled all his duties with the easy grace, the calm assurance, and the quiet dignity of an experienced diplomat and Governor of long experience.

It is a far cry from Southern India with its subject inhabitants, to Canada's "stern splenetic north," and its proudly-sensitive, freedom-loving people; but Lord Willingdon seemed quite equal to both extremes. Like Ulysses, His Excellency has seen and known much "of men and manners, climates, councils, governments—himself not least, but honored of them all," and glancing at his face one felt that he is not without the particular wisdom that characterized that great wanderer and much enduring man.

Changes and Innovations.  
The ceremony of Opening the House was set for three o'clock, but long before that, crowded galleries looked down upon the read carpeted, and as yet empty, ground floor. And as one looked one was conscious—with surprise—of changes, of something missing, of innovations. Hitherto the table of the Senate has always occupied its place just below the Wool-sack—which happily was not touched—and upon the table lay the great golden mace—emblem of Governmental Authority. These had vanished, and with them the double row of chairs down the middle of the room upon which had sat church dignitaries, Privy Counsellors in Windsor uniforms and gold laced, sword-bearing Consuls from all the nations of the world. Perhaps Their Excellencies, fresh from the pomp and ceremony designed to impress the Oriental minds of India, thought that the table and the mace, and the chairs, would interfere with the impressiveness of their entry, though former entries of Governors-General have never lacked impressive-

ness? Who knows? Then one noticed a Throne chair just a little lower on the dais than that of the Governor-General, and facing the House, and learned that instead of sitting near the Throne and on a level with the Cabinet Minister's wives, as has been the custom with her predecessors, the Viscountess was to occupy this prominent seat beside His Excellency. All of which was very interesting—very

### Viscountess Arrives.

But the firing of a gun outside announced the arrival at five minutes to three o'clock of the feminine contingent from Government House, and presently, while everyone stood in silence, Viscountess Willingdon, escorted by the Prime Minister in Windsor uniform, preceded by a Military escort, and followed by two pages carrying her long court train of gold lame lined with jade green velvet, her diamond tiara sparkling and flashing, the front of her superb gown decorated with the orders of St. John and Jerusalem, a Dame of the British Empire, and the Kaiser-i-Hind gold medal, paced slowly down the broad red-carpeted aisle and with leisurely grace seated herself on the left of the Throne. The two pages Robert Southam and Roger Rowley, in white breeches, white silk stockings and buckled shoes, white satin waist-coats and gold laced blue coats with ruffles, took up their position behind on each side of the Viscountess, and Senator Dandurand stood at her right. Colonel and Mrs. Osborne followed—the Colonel also in white breeches and stockings with buckled shoes and blue laced long-tailed coat—while the rest of the ladies, the wives of the Aides and guests at Government House, went to the reserved gallery. In the meantime, while awaiting the arrival of His Excellency, there was much animation and chat on the part of the Privy Counsellors in gorgeous uniform, Senators and other personages and personalities on the ground floor. Mr. Vincent Massey was receiving many congratulations on his appointment to Washington; Roman Catholic personages greeted reverently and affectionately the picturesque old Archbishop in his purple robes, some bowing the knee and kissing the hand; and the Anglican Bishop of Ottawa conversed with the representative of the Continuing Presbyterian Church of Canada. The splendidly uniformed Consuls conversed in low tones and laughter discreetly, and the Alice in Wonderland groups of Judges of the Supreme Court of Canada, suggesting all antiquity in their scarlet and ermine robes and cocked hats, sat back to back on the Wool-sack with great gravity and dignity. And last but by no means least, the three hundred and fifty ladies who filled the seats allotted to them behind the row of handsome Senators on both sides of the central aisles, made a vari-colored and glittering company in their beautiful frocks and sparkling jewels. The dresses were unusually smart and becoming and here and there were worn superb sable and ermine wraps.

### His Excellency Arrives.

But again the gun fire outside and again the silence of great expectancy, and, after a brief interval, the whole house rose noiselessly as the first members of the unusually brilliant and very large military escort slowly preceded His Excellency, who was in full Court dress, to the Throne. As he neared the Throne, the Viscountess rose and made him one of those deep, supple, graceful curtsies that only Court ladies excec in the befeathered hat in hand, bowing as deeply to her. It was a quaint proceeding. His Excellency stood facing the House for a few moment, all eyes bracketed upon him, and then, after the many uniformed officers had effectively grouped themselves on either side of him, and the Prime Minister had taken up his position, rigidly erect, on the Vice-Regal right, he requested the house to be seated. The popular Gentleman usher of the Black Rod in his historic black suit with white ruffles and gold tipped black rod, making his three ceremonious bows, proceeded to call the Commons to the bar of the Senate. There was another interlude of animated talk, and then a loud call for order by the Sergeant-at-Arms intimated the arrival of the newly re-

appointed and much liked Speaker of the Commons, Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, with the members at the barred gate of the Red Chamber. Then followed more formal becking and bowing, coups de chapeau from the Governor-General and the Speaker, and the reading of the Speech from the Throne, first in English and then in French, was begun by His Excellency.

### Formal Departure.

The departure of His Excellency from the Senate was as ceremonious as his arrival. The Military escort preceded him, and after conveying him to his car, a number of them returned to escort the Viscountess. Another stately procession—an innovation this—and the Viscountess with the pages holding her train, left the chamber with great dignity, and the remainder of the audience were free to breathe once more the atmosphere of the common order of things. Followed the receptions by the Speakers of the Senate and the Commons which were very largely attended, and in the evening at Government House the usual state dinner. "And so to bed" to quote our Epicurean Pepys.

### Ladies' Dresses.

As has been said, the dresses of the ladies were really of surpassing beauty and smartness, and was one wrong in thinking that the skirts were longer than has been worn? Mrs. Ashton, wife of Major-General E. C. Ashton, was one of the ladies who made an effective entrance in a ravishing gown of turquoise blue chiffon velvet with silver, and her charming debutante daughter in crystal and pearl and silver embroidered pink chiffon was also admired. Mrs. Humphrey Snow wore a graceful and becoming gown of golden yellow. Lady Borden was in blue and silver brocade with pearls and diamonds for ornament. Mrs. Hugh Guthrie wore a French gown of rose georgette with effective outlinings of brilliants, and her daughter, Helen, was in primrose yellow over a gold slip and girdle of yellow velvet. Mrs. A. D. McRae, wife of General McRae of Vancouver, was very smart in coral velvet with a rose on the shoulder, diamond necklace and long earrings. Mrs. John McMartin, of Montreal, was a dignified and attractive figure in black with diamonds, and wore a superb sable wrap. Mrs. H. A. Panet, wife of Brig-General Panet, was in powder blue chiffon with silver. Madame Rodolphe Lemieux, wife of the Speaker of the Commons, was attractively gowned in gold embroidered black net with corsage of violets. Mrs. J. H. O'Brien, was in silver beaded white crepe de Chine. Mrs. H. S. Southam, of Ottawa, whose young son acted as page to the Viscountess Willingdon, was smart in a French gown of rose shaded georgette combined with deep rose, and richly beaded. Mrs. W. F. Todd, wife of the Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick, wore a gown of black and silver sequins. Mrs. J. H. King was handsome in her gown of green and gold embroidered black satin, and carrying a green ostrich feather fan. Mrs. W. R. Motherwell, wife of the Minister of Agriculture, looked extremely well in a gown of green and gold tissue, and wore an ermine wrap. Mrs. W. C. Kennedy, of Windsor, Ont., looked well in a becoming and smart black lace gown with long train. Mrs. F. C. T. O'Hara, of Ottawa, was most effectively gowned in black with rhinestone ornaments, and wore an ermine stole. Lady Perley wore gray mousseline de sole velvet with diamonds and pearls for ornament. Mrs. Vincent Massey, of Toronto, was in blue velvet. Mrs. J. L. Ralston, wife of the Minister of Defence, wore a striking and delightful gown of sequins in tones of mauve and violet and wore a Spanish shawl in mauve. Her ornaments were pearls. Mrs. J. A. Robb, wife of the Minister of Finance, wore a lovely gown of French guipure lace over sea blue georgette. Mrs. Cameron M. Edwards was smart in black crepe satin and cornflower blue, with diamante girdle. Mrs. Chow, wife of the consul-general for China, was a striking and picturesque figure in Chinese ceremonial costume, worn only on great state occasions. A crimson silk skirt heavily embroidered with gold thread in a design of peonies, over which was worn a black silk coat also embroidered with gold thread in the same design. On the other hand the wife of the Japanese Consul-General, Mrs. Matsunaga was very modern and very smart in a gown of jade green georgette, richly beaded, and most becoming to the charming little lady who wore it so well. Miss Marcelle Paradis, of Que-

bec, daughter of the Hon. Philippe Paradis, wore a pretty frock of rose pink with sequins. Miss Bessie Watt, of Ottawa, wore a becoming gown of mauve brocade velvet on flame color. Mrs. Livius Sherwood was smart in a loilet crepe Romain with velvet flowers applique. Mrs. A. B. Copp, wife of Senator Copp, wore a lovely gown of peach colored lace. Miss Louise de Salaberry, blue georgette with blue and gold sequins.

stake and mark a road across the Saint John River between this place and Rossborough Station had the misfortune to get his horses both through the ice near the station. As the water was about twelve feet in depth the horses were unable to help themselves. And only by the clever work of the four or five men in the crowd were the animals rescued from their ice cold bath.

Christmas passed off very quietly without concerts or entertainments.

John Brown and family spent their Christmas with Mrs. Brown's sister, Mrs. Roy Jordon of Lower Bear Island.

Harvey Ingraham and family and Alfred Brown had Christmas tea at B. L. Brown's.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Manuel are spending the week-end in Houlton with Mr. Manuel's brother.

John Telfer and family of Springfield spent Christmas with Ambrose Hagerman and wife.

### BEAR ISLAND.

Bear Island, Dec. 27—The weather for the past week has been very favorable to the farmers in taking their produce to market as well as those going to Fredericton to do their Christmas shopping.

The roads at this place can be used by car or team.

Robert Hagerman in helping to

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