

summoned somewhat in advance of the usual period.

The bountiful harvest with which Canada has been blessed is a cause for the deepest thankfulness to the Giver of all good.

I congratulate you upon the evidence of increased activity in the various branches of commerce and industry.

Several such indications have come under my personal observation during a tour made recently in the North-west Territories and British Columbia. In particular, I noticed the extension of mining enterprise in British Columbia, where the vast mineral resources are in certain localities being now developed and utilized upon something like an adequate scale.

A special feature of the same tour consisted in the opportunities obtained for visiting a number of the Indian Reservations and also the Indian Industrial Schools. On the former I was received with hearty demonstrations of loyalty and good-will, while in connection with the latter the proofs of proficiency and intelligence on the part of the children are highly encouraging.

As to the work of the Indian Department as a whole, the manner in which it is directed and administered appears to be very satisfactory.

A reference to these topics would be incomplete without an allusion to the valuable services of the North-west Mounted Police, which may justly be regarded by Canadians generally as indispensable, under present conditions, to the well-being of those extensive and promising portions of the Dominion in which they are stationed.

Immediately after the prorogation of Parliament my Government communicated through the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba with the Government of that province, in order to ascertain upon what lines the local authorities of Manitoba would be prepared to promote amendments to the Acts respecting education in schools in that province, and whether any arrangement was possible with the Manitoba Government which would render action by the Federal Parliament in this connection unnecessary. I regret to say that the advisers of the Lieutenant-Governor have declined to entertain favourably these suggestions, thereby rendering it necessary for my Government in pursuance of its declared policy to introduce legislation in regard to this subject. The papers will be laid before you.

I am happy to inform you that the representations of my Government and the suggestions of the Ottawa Conference respecting steamship communication have resulted in an announcement by the Imperial authorities of their willingness to grant a substantial subvention towards the Atlantic portion of the scheme. This will, I trust, ensure the successful establishment of a line of steamers between the United Kingdom

Mr. SPEAKER.

and Canada, which, in point of speed and equipment, shall fully meet all requirements.

My Government have also learned with satisfaction that it is the intention of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to appoint a Committee to consider a proposed Pacific Cable to connect Canada with Australasia. You will, I am sure, share the gratification with which my advisers welcome these announcements as affording further evidence of the desire of Her Majesty's Government to draw closer to each other and to the motherland the outlying portions of the Queen's Dominions. The papers on these subjects will also be submitted to you.

Your attention will be asked to measures intended to provide for the better arming of our militia and the strengthening of Canadian defences.

The growth of population in the North-west Territories as disclosed by the last enumeration calls for additional representation in Parliament. A Bill for this purpose will be laid before you.

I am happy to be able to inform you that the Commissioners appointed by Great Britain and the United States for the purpose of delimiting the boundary between Alaska and Canada have concluded their labours and have signed a joint report for presentation to their respective Governments. This report will be laid before Parliament in due time.

At the request of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies a delegate of my Government visited England last summer to confer with the Imperial authorities upon the question of Copyright. His report will be laid before you, and I doubt not that this subject will again receive your earnest attention.

You will also be asked to consider measures for the extension and development of our trade in agricultural products with the United Kingdom, and other markets.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons :

The accounts of the past and the estimates for the ensuing year will be laid before you. The latter have been framed with every regard for economy consistent with the requirements of the public service.

You will be pleased to learn that the revenues of the country show a gradual and continuous increase, and that the promised equilibrium between income and expenditure on Consolidated Fund account for the current year bids fair to be realized.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate :

Gentlemen of the House of Commons :

I commend these subjects and others which may come before you to your earnest consideration, relying upon your wisdom and prudence