

action for the preservation of law and order in that district and almost inaccessible locality; measures will be laid before you for that purpose.

A contract has been entered into, subject to your approval, for the completion at the earliest possible moment of a system of rail and river communication through Canadian territory with the Klondike and principal gold fields, which it is expected will secure to Canada the larger portion of the lucrative traffic of that country.

The bountiful harvest with which we have been favoured by a benevolent Providence has contributed greatly to the increase of our prosperity, and I am glad to note that the trade and commerce of the Dominion, and more especially the amount and values of her principal exports, have increased greatly during the past eighteen months, and there is good reason to believe that this improvement may be maintained if not augmented, during the remainder of the present year.

I observe with pleasure that certain government contracts recently let contain provisions calculated to suppress the evils of the sweating system.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

The accounts of the past year will be laid before you.

The Estimates for the succeeding year will likewise be placed upon the Table at an early date.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

Measures will be submitted to you respecting Superannuation, the repeal of the present Franchise Act, and a plebiscite on the question of prohibition.

These and other measures I commend to your earnest consideration, invoking the Divine blessings upon the important labours on which you are again entering.

His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to retire, and the House of Commons withdrew.

BILL INTRODUCED.

"An Act relating to Railways."—(Hon. Mr. Scott.)

THE STIKINETESLIN RAILWAY CONTRACT.

INQUIRY.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I should like to ask the leader of the House when we may expect to have laid before us the agreement or contract for the construction of the Stikine Railway referred to in the Speech from the Throne. The subject is agitating the public mind, and the contract should be submitted to Parliament without delay. It is impossible to discuss intelligently a question of such magnitude without having the details of the agreement before us.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—It will be laid upon the Table at the earliest possible moment.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—May we expect it to be laid upon the Table before the debate on the Address takes place?

Hon. Mr. MILLS—Yes, I think it will be.

The Senate then adjourned.

THE SENATE.

Ottawa, Monday, 7th February, 1898.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at Eight O'clock.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

NEW SENATOR.

Hon. Mr. Fiset was introduced and took his seat.

THE ADDRESS.

MOTION.

Hon. Mr. KING moved:

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General, to offer the humble thanks of this House to His Excellency for the gracious Speech which 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, Traves 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; Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, etc., etc., Governor General of Canada.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Senate of Canada in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Excellency for the gracious Speech which Your Excellency has addressed to both Houses of Parliament.

He said:—In rising to move the address in reply to the speech of His Excellency the Governor General, delivered at the opening of this session of Parliament, I may be permitted to say that I would have been much better pleased had the task, which has been assigned to me on this occasion, been placed