

Debates and Proceedings

OF THE

SENATE OF CANADA,

IN THE

FOURTH SESSION OF THE THIRD PARLIAMENT OF THE DOMINION OF
CANADA, CALLED FOR THE DESPATCH OF BUSINESS ON THE 8TH
DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1877.

SENATE.

THURSDAY, Feb. 8, 1877.

This day, at three o'clock p.m., His Excellency the Governor General proceeded in State to the Chamber of the Senate, in the Parliament Buildings, and took his seat upon the Throne. The Members of the Senate being assembled, His Excellency was pleased to command the attendance of the House of Commons, and that House being present, His Excellency was pleased to open the Fourth Session of the Third Parliament of the Dominion of Canada, with the following

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE :

Hon. Gentlemen of the Senate.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons.

I am glad to be again enabled to summon you to meet for the despatch of business, at the time which has been considered best suited to the convenience of members.

During the recess I visited the Province of British Columbia, and had much satisfaction in becoming acquainted with the people of that interesting portion of the Dominion, and with the climate and resources of their Province.

The surveys of the Pacific Railway have been prosecuted with the utmost vigor and

at a larger cost during the past than in any previous year, but it has not been found possible, as yet, to complete the location of the line, and I have consequently been obliged to postpone the inviting of tenders for its construction on the terms indicated by the Act of 1874.

A further correspondence on the subjects at issue between my Government and British Columbia will be laid before you.

During the recent suspension of the Extradition arrangements with the United States I took care that the importance to Canada of a speedy resumption of these arrangements should be represented to Her Majesty's Government, whose attention has been further invited to the expediency of largely extending the provisions of the existing Treaty.

I am glad to be able to state that while the operation of the Treaty has been resumed, negotiations are in progress for a convention, more liberal, and better suited to the circumstances of the two countries.

The attention of my Government having been directed to some anomalies in the Royal Commission, and Royal Instructions to the Governor General, particularly with regard to the exercise of the Prerogative of Pardon, steps have been taken towards the amendment of these instruments.