

You will, I am sure, gladly join with the rest of the loyal subjects of the Queen in offering Her Majesty your sincere congratulations on Her having reached the fiftieth anniversary of Her accession to the Throne, and in giving expression to an earnest hope that she may be long spared to reign over Her vast Dominions.

The prominent position taken by Canada at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, recently held in London, has made the Dominion more widely and favorably known than before, and will, I have no doubt, contribute largely to its material progress by calling attention to the advantages offered by our country to the agriculturist, and by attracting the capital necessary for the development of its great natural resources.

Negotiations between Her Majesty's Government and that of the United States on the Fishery Question, with respect to which my Government has been fully informed and consulted, are still in progress, and will, we may be permitted to hope, result in an arrangement honorable and satisfactory to both nations.

Meanwhile the necessary provision has been made for the protection of our in-shore fisheries. The papers on this subject will be laid before you.

Your attention will be invited to the expediency of establishing a Department of Trade and Commerce, under the supervision of a responsible Minister.

You will also be asked to consider the propriety of making such improvement in the organization of the Departments of Justice, Customs, and Inland Revenue, as will provide greater facilities for the despatch of the large and increasing volume of business with which those Departments are charged.

A measure will be submitted to you giving representation in the Senate to the North-West Territories in addition to that which they now possess in the House of Commons.

Other measures will be laid before you, and among them will be found Bills for the amendment of the Acts relating to Government Railways, for providing a better mode of trial of claims against the Crown, for the improvement of the Procedure in Criminal Cases, and for the further amendment of the Chinese Immigration Act.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

You will be asked, in order to provide against the possible interruption of the navigation of our great inland waters, for an appropriation in aid of the construction of a canal to connect the waters of Lakes Huron and Superior at Sault Ste. Marie.

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 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 the others which may be laid before you to your best consideration, with full confidence in your earnest desire to promote the development and well-being of Canada.

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

The Honorable Mr. Smith presented to the House, a Bill intituled "An Act relating to Railways."

The said Bill was read for the first time.

The Honorable the Speaker reported His Excellency's Speech from the Throne, and the same was then read by the Clerk.

On motion of the Honorable Mr. Smith, seconded by the Honorable Mr. Montgomery, it was