

The House was adjourned during pleasure.

After some time the House was resumed,

His Excellency Sir Edmund Walker Head, Baronet, Governor General of British North America, and Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over the Provinces of *Canada*, *Nova Scotia*, *New Brunswick* and the Island of *Prince Edward*, and Vice Admiral of the same, being seated in the Chair on the Throne, the Speaker commanded the Gentleman Usher of the *Black Rod*, to let the Assembly know "it is His Excellency's pleasure that they attend him "immediately in this House,"

Who being come,

His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to open the Session by a Gracious Speech to both Houses.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,
Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly :

The time of year has arrived when the Country again requires your services ; and I have called you together in the full belief that every effort will be made by you to promote the good government and increase the prosperity of *Canada*..

By the blessing of Providence that prosperity has met with no check : the restoration of peace to Europe, and the hope that good will and friendly feeling will continue to prevail on this continent, inspire me with confidence in the future. The increased cultivation of the soil, and the growth of our trade as shewn by the Official Returns, afford the best proof of rapid progress.

Among the outward signs of such progress, the opening of the Grand Trunk Railway from *St. Thomas* in the East, to *Stratford*, must hold a prominent place, great Cities like *Quebec*, *Montreal* and *Toronto* which have hitherto been separated in winter by a waste of snow, now enjoy daily intercourse one with the other.

With regard to the internal communications of the Country, I have taken measures for examining the Valley of the *Ottawa*, that great River in which *Upper* and *Lower Canada* are equally interested, with a view to ascertain what facilities its course may hereafter afford for inland traffic. The final report of the survey of this district is not yet received, but when made will deserve your most attentive consideration.

At any rate the tract which is on three sides bounded by Lake *Ontario*, the *Ottawa* and Lake *Huron*, has appeared to me one of vast importance to *Canada*. Its settlements will add breadth to the Province, and its lands are, I am informed, such as may fairly attract the industry and reward the toil of a large population. Steps have accordingly been taken to intersect parts of this district by roads, and to offer, along the line of such roads, lands on easy terms to actual settlers.

I entertain little doubt that the banks of the *St. Maurice*, in *Lower Canada*, may be advantageously dealt with in the same manner.