

Parliamentary.

The Dominion Parliament was prorogued on Wednesday last, by his Excellency the Governor General with the usual formalities His Excellency delivered the following speech:—

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate: Gentlemen of the House of Commons

I thank you for the care a deliberation with which you have discharged the duties that have devolved upon you during the session. The bill you have passed relative to the management of Indian affairs and the gradual enfranchisement of the Indians will not only be useful, as a consolidation of existing statutes, but will afford further evidence of the interests taken by the people of Canada in the welfare of their countrymen. It is interesting to know that many of its provisions are suggested by the Indian Councils of older Provinces. It is my intention during the recess to make a treaty arrangement with the Indian tribes in the Western Saskatchewan country for the extinguishment of their title and thereby to open another large tract of fertile territory for settlement and cultivation. The formation of the new district of Keewatin, in the eastern part of the North west country, and the progress made in opening up railway and telegraphic communication to the interior, will, with the improvements effected on our land system, further prepare the way for the rapid settlement of those vast regions, and will, at no distant day, materially contribute to the trade and extend the prestige of the Dominion. I am glad to be able to say that we have now over 700 miles of telegraph in operation west of the Red River. The amendments made to the law relating to elections for the House of Commons will, I trust, have the result of obtaining and unbiased expression of opinion of the electors in selecting their representatives. The measures you have passed for the purpose of securing a careful return of criminal, insolvency and railway statistics will, I doubt not, be of essential service in promoting important objects, as well as providing much needed information on each of these subjects.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

I thank you for the supplies you have voted for the public service. I shall not fail to consider the clause you have attached to the vote for works of construction on the Pacific Railway. I am glad that a wise economy obviated the necessity of imposing any fresh taxation on the people. I trust that increased commercial prosperity will justify your confidence in the future.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

I regret that I am unable to announce that any further progress has been made with the arrangements for the settlement of the compensation to be paid for our fisheries, in accordance with the Treaty of Washington. I trust that on your return to your respective homes you may find the promise awaiting you of a prosperous season, and that your labors out of session may be as useful and beneficial as they have been during your attendance in Parliament.

A gentleman travelling in Texas met on the road a wagon drawn by four oxen, driven by a countryman, who, in addition to the skillful flourish and crack of his whip,

was encouraging his horned horses after this fashion:

"Haw, Presbyterian! Gee, Baptist! G'lang there, Episcopalian! Get up, Methodist!"

The gentleman stopped the driver, remarking to him that he had queer names for his oxen, and he would like to know why he called them thus.

Said the driver: "I call this ox Presbyterian because he is a true blue, never fails, pulls through difficulties holds out to the end, and knows more than the rest. I call this one Baptist because he is always after water and seems as though he'd never get enough, and he won't eat with the others. I call this one Episcopalian because he has a mighty way of holding his head up, and if the yoke gets tight he tries to kick clear of the traces. I call this one Methodist because he puffs, blows and bellows as he goes along, and you'd think he was pullin' all creation, but he don't pull a pound unless you continually stir him up. G'lang!"

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