

Under these circumstances, I confidently rely upon your readiness to sanction the outlay which has been thus incurred, as well as to provide for the necessary expenses of the Government for the current year.

Honorable Gentlemen, and Gentlemen,

I urge upon your early attention the state of the finances of the Province, and the relation which its expenditure bears to its income and resources.

You will not fail to concur with me in the expression of regret, that for some years past the public expenditure has exceeded the annual income; and I cannot doubt that you will agree with me, that the time has arrived when a strenuous effort should be made to avert the continuance of this deficiency.

I have received a despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, enclosing copies of a correspondence between Her Majesty's Government and the Agent of the "*Atlantic and Pacific Transit and Telegraph Company*," in reference to a proposal made by that Company for the establishment of a Telegraph and Postal communication between *Lake Superior* and *New Westminster*, in *British Columbia*.

The importance of such an undertaking to the British North American Provinces, both in a commercial and in a military point of view, induces me to commend the subject to your consideration. Copies of the correspondence shall be laid before you, and I feel assured that, should any proposal calculated to effect the establishment of such communication, on terms advantageous to the Province, be submitted to you, it will receive encouragement at your hands.

I cannot refrain from congratulating you at this season of the year upon the prospect which everywhere prevails of an abundant harvest. I sincerely trust that the prosperity with which it appears likely Providence will this year bless the agricultural classes, may produce a corresponding improvement in our commerce and manufactures.

In commending to your careful attention the public affairs of this Province, I depend upon your zeal and ability to promote whatever may conduce to the advancement of its future welfare, and I humbly invoke the Divine blessing upon your deliberations, that they may be entered upon in an unselfish and impartial spirit, and may tend to the increase of unanimity, prosperity and contentment throughout the land.

On motion of the Honorable Mr. Attorney General *J. S. Macdonald*, seconded by the Honorable Mr. Attorney General *Dorion*,

*Ordered*, That the Votes and Proceedings of this House be printed, being first perused by Mr. Speaker, and that he do appoint the printing thereof; and that no person but such as he shall appoint do presume to print the same.

*Resolved*, That Select Standing Committees of this House for the present Session be appointed for the following purposes:—1. On Privileges and Elections. 2. On Expiring Laws. 3. On Railways, Canals and Telegraph Lines. 4. On Miscellaneous Private Bills. 5. On Standing Orders. 6. On Printing. 7. On Contingencies. 8. On Public Accounts. 9. On Banking and Insurance; which said Committees shall severally be empowered to examine and enquire into all such matters and things as may be referred to them by the House, and to report, from time to time, their observations and opinions thereon, with power to send for persons, papers and records.

*Resolved*, 1st.—That if anything shall come in question touching the Return or Election of any Member, he is to withdraw during the time the matter is in debate; and all Members returned upon double returns are to withdraw until their Returns are determined.

*Resolved*, 2nd.—That if it shall appear that any person hath been elected or returned a Member of this House, or hath endeavored so to be, by bribery or any other corrupt practices, this House will proceed with the utmost severity against all such persons as shall have been wilfully concerned in such bribery or other corrupt practices.

*Resolved*, 3rd.—That the offer of any money or other advantage to any Member of the Legislative Assembly, for the promoting of any matter whatsoever, depending or to be transacted in the Provincial Parliament, is a high crime and misdemeanor, and tends to the subversion of the Constitution.