

The revenues of the year have been ample for the services which you provided for, and have met the expectations on which the appropriations of last year were based.

The peaceful conclusion, by the award of the arbitrators at Paris, of the controversy which had prevailed so long, with respect to the Seal Fisheries in the Pacific Ocean and the rights of British subjects in Behring Sea, has removed the only source of contention which existed between Great Britain and the United States with regard to Canada. There is every reason to believe that Her Majesty's Government will obtain redress for those Canadian subjects of Her Majesty who were deprived of their property and liberty without just cause while the controversy was in progress.

At an early date a measure will be laid before you having for its object a revision of the Duties of Customs with a view to meet the changes which time has effected in business operations of all kinds throughout the Dominion. While my Ministers do not propose to change the principles on which the existing enactments on this subject are based, the amendments which will be offered for your consideration are designed to simplify the operation of the tariff and to lessen, as far as can be done, consistently with those principles and with the requirements of the Treasury, the imposts which are now in force.

There will also be laid before you a measure on the subject of Bankruptcy and Insolvency which will, it is hoped, make more adequate provision than now exists on that subject for the increasing trade and commerce of the country and for the greatly expanded trade between the several provinces of Canada.

Measures will also be submitted to you making more effective provisions for our lines of steam communication on the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, for improving the law with regard to Dominion Lands and with regard to the management of Indian Affairs; also a Bill respecting Joint Stock Companies, another with respect to the Fisheries, and several less important measures which experience has suggested with regard to various matters under your control.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

The Public Accounts will be submitted to you at an early date and also the Estimates of the expenditure which has been considered necessary for the ensuing year.

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

While it is hoped that the public measures which will demand your attention will not be very numerous some of them will be of great weight and importance, and it is my earnest hope and prayer that the care and zeal which you will apply to the deliberations of the Session may be aided by the abundant blessing of the Almighty.

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

The Honourable Mr. Bowell, Minister of Trade and Commerce, presented to the House, a Bill intituled: "An Act relating to Railways."

The said Bill was read for the first time.

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

On motion of the Honourable Mr. Bowell, seconded by the Honourable Mr. Angers, it was

Ordered, That the House do take into consideration the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General, on Monday next.