

Following the example of my distinguished predecessor, I paid a visit of some length to British Columbia last season.

The great natural resources of that Province promise that as soon as the Pacific Railway is completed, an impulse to its prosperity, commensurate with the progress made elsewhere, will be assured.

Meanwhile, the disposal of the lands set aside in aid of the Railway to actual settlers will add to the importance and wealth of the Province.

While passing through the United States I was rejoiced to observe many evidences of regard for the Empire of which this country forms so large a portion.

May this friendship, which is so fully returned by us, be as enduring as it is natural and advantageous to the mutual interests of both great nations.

The steady flow of settlers into Manitoba and the North-West Territories last year, and the assurances received of an increased immigration during the coming season, promise well for the early development of those fertile and salubrious regions.

It is important that the laws relating to the representation of the people in Parliament should be amended, and the electoral franchises existing in the several provinces assimilated. A measure for this purpose will be submitted for your consideration.

I am advised that the Judgment of the Lords of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council delivered last June on the appeal of *Russell versus the Queen* goes to show, that in order to prevent the unrestrained sale of intoxicating liquors, and for that purpose to regulate the granting of shop, saloon and tavern licenses, legislation by the Dominion Parliament will be necessary. Your earnest consideration of this important subject is desired.

Your attention is specially invited to a measure regulating Factory Labour and the protection of the workingman and his family.

Bills for the consolidation and the amendment of the laws relating to the Customs, the Militia, and the Public Lands, will be laid before you.

Among other measures Bills will be presented to you respecting the Civil Service, the Acts relating to Banking and the examination of Masters and Mates of vessels navigating our inland waters.

I am glad to be able to inform you that the progress of the Canadian Pacific Railway has been quite unprecedented. Traffic can now be carried on the main line from Thunder Bay to within fifty miles of the crossing of the South Saskatchewan, a distance of over one thousand miles. It is confidently expected that the Rocky Mountains will be reached during the present year, and that within the same period substantial progress will be made on the Lake Superior Section of the Railway, and the track laid upon a large portion of the road now under contract in British Columbia.

I have also pleasure in stating that the traffic on the Intercolonial Railway is largely in excess of any former year, and that the balance in favour of the road shows a gratifying increase.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

The accounts of the last fiscal year will be laid before you.

You will be pleased to learn that, notwithstanding the expenditure on Capital account amounted to more than seven millions of dollars, the surplus of the Consolidated Revenue, together with the proceeds of the sales of the lands in the North-West during last year, were more than sufficient to cover that expenditure, and that the net debt at the close of the year and the amount of interest paid thereon were less than for the year previous.

The estimates for the ensuing year will also be submitted. They have been prepared with all due economy consistent with the necessary development of the varied resources of the Dominion.

On the first of January, 1885, the large 5 per cent. loan will mature. A Bill will be submitted authorizing the issue of Debentures bearing a rate of interest not exceeding 4 per cent. for the redemption of this loan.

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate :*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

The subjects I have mentioned to you are of much importance, and I commend them to your consideration with full confidence in your discretion and patriotism.

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

The House resumed.