

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 Labor and the protection of the workingman and his family.

Bills for the consolidation and 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 favor 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 the 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 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.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved that the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General be taken into consideration on Monday next.

Motion agreed to.

#### SELECT STANDING COMMITTEES.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved:

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 Public Accounts.—8. On Banking

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and Commerce.—9. On Immigration and Colonization,—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.

Motion agreed to.

#### REPORT.

Mr. SPEAKER laid before the House the Report of the Librarian on the state of the Library of Parliament.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. CASGRAIN. I desire to call the attention of the House to a matter which occurred yesterday. Of course the ceremony in which we took part yesterday, is one which many of us have witnessed on many previous occasions, but I think the time of members of this House is sufficiently valuable to enable us to dispense with very much of what we went through yesterday. It is true the custom is an old one, and at one time it had its *raison d'être*. Its origin was such that it is valuable for us to keep it in mind. At the same time I cannot see any reason why it should be perpetuated by this House, and I may say that I have consulted with some of my colleagues on the subject, and they agree with me as to the uselessness of many parts of the ceremony. In former times—seven hundred or eight hundred years ago—the Parliament of England, which we endeavor to copy in this Chamber sat in one building, and the permission of the Crown to elect a Speaker was necessary, because the House had to have a spokesman; but it seems to me that in these days of reform we might well dispense with a usage which has no meaning now. I consider that our time is too valuable for us to lose one day yesterday and I may say another to-day, so that we have to defer until Monday the consideration of His Excellency's speech. Certainly, the Crown might refuse to accept a particular person as Speaker, but the election of its Speaker is undoubtedly one of the rights and privileges of the House of Commons. I do not wish to use too strong a term, and if I do, it will be owing to my unfamiliarity with the English language; but it did appear to me, that it was rather a ridiculous proceeding to invite us into the other Chamber, and to tell us to go back, choose our Speaker, and return to-morrow. I call attention to the matter, in the hope that some future Parliament may take steps to prevent such a needless waste of time.

Motion agreed to; and (at 3:50 o'clock p.m.) the House adjourned.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, 12th February, 1883.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

#### CONTROVERTED ELECTION.

Mr. SPEAKER informed the House that he had received from the Hon. Mr. Justice Torrance, one of the Judges selected for the trial of Election Petitions, pursuant to the Dominion Controverted Elections Act, 1874, his final judgment in the matter of the Controverted Election for the Electoral District of Jacques Cartier, declaring D. Girouard, Esq., duly elected.