

Three of my Ministers therefore proceeded to England for the purpose of carrying on negotiations to that end.

I am pleased to be able to inform you that their efforts were so far successful that a contract has been entered into, subject to the approval of Parliament, with men of high financial standing in Europe, the United States and Canada, for the speedy construction and permanent working of this great national enterprise.

The Contract and the papers connected therewith, will be submitted to you without delay, and I invoke for them your early and earnest consideration.

With this view I have summoned you before the usual period, as no action can be taken by the Contractors to prosecute the work, and no permanent arrangement for the organization of a systematic Emigration from Europe to the North West Territories, can be satisfactorily made until the policy of Parliament with respect to the Railway has been decided.

Steady progress has been made in the construction of those portions of the Railway now under contract. Two additional sections have been recently opened for traffic, one from Winnipeg to Portage la Prairie, the other from Cross Lake to Keewatin; so that there are now in all 264 miles in operation.

You will be glad to learn that the measures adopted to promote economy in the working of the Intercolonial and Prince Edward Island Railways have resulted in a large reduction of the difference between Revenue and Expenditure; and that the steadily increasing traffic warrants the expectation that during the current year these railways will be self-sustaining.

I have the gratification of informing you that Her Majesty's Government has generously presented to Canada, for training school purposes, the steam corvette *Charybdis* lately returned from service in the Chinese Seas. The correspondence on this subject will be laid before you.

I have thought it well, in consideration of the increasing duties thrown by the development of the Country upon the Civil Service, and for the more efficient organization of such service, to issue a Royal Commission to examine and report on the whole question.

The Report of the Commissioners will, I believe, be ready to lay before you at an early day; and I ask for your consideration of such Report and of the whole subject of Civil Service Reform.

A measure for the enlargement of the boundaries of the Province of Manitoba will be submitted to you.

I greatly regret being obliged to state that the entire failure of the usual food supply of the Indians in the North-West, to which I called your attention last Session, has continued during the present season, and has involved the necessity of a large expenditure in order to save them from absolute starvation. Several of the Bands have, however, already applied themselves to the cultivation of their reserves and the care of their cattle. No effort will be spared to induce the whole of the aboriginal population to betake themselves to agricultural pursuits.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

The Accounts of the last, and the Estimates for the ensuing year, will be laid before you. The Estimates will, I trust, be found to have been prepared with due regard to economy and the efficiency of the Public Service.

It will be satisfactory to you to know that the existing Tariff has not only promoted the Manufactures and other products of the Country, but has so far increased the Revenues of the Dominion as to place it beyond doubt that the receipts of the current fiscal year will be in excess of the expenditures chargeable to Consolidated Revenue.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

Several measures of importance will be submitted to you, among them will be Bills for the winding up of Insolvent Banks and Incorporated Companies; for the amendment of the Railway Act of 1879; for the revision and consolidation of the Laws relating to Government Railways; and for the improvement, in several respects, of the Criminal Law.

I am pleased to be able to inform you that there are now good hopes of our being able to place the naturalization of German Settlers on a

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more satisfactory footing. A measure will be submitted, with all the papers connected with the matter, for your consideration.

Your best attention will, I am sure, be given to the subjects I have mentioned, as well as to everything that affects the well-being and good government of the Dominion.

REPORT.

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

HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved that the speech of His Excellency the Governor-General be taken into consideration to-morrow.

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 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.

ADJOURNMENT.

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

Mr. BLAKE. Perhaps the hon. gentleman would make it convenient now to state when he proposes to lay before us the papers mentioned in the Address—the papers relating to the Pacific Railway agreement.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Immediately after the Answer to the Address has been carried.

Mr. BLAKE. And perhaps the hon. gentleman would say whether these papers will include any other offers and correspondence connected with any other offers than the contract which has been made.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I am not yet prepared to say.

Mr. MACKENZIE. Will you be good enough, Mr. Speaker, to state for what reason Mr. Patrick was superannuated. Was it recommended by you on account of his inefficiency?—has he resigned? or what has become of him?

Mr. SPEAKER. The Commission on Internal Economy made a recommendation for the superannuation of Mr. Patrick, because it was considered that his health was not such as to enable him to perform his duties this Session.

Mr. MACKENZIE. I am informed that Mr. Patrick is unconscious of that feeling himself. I would like to know how the members of the Commission found it out.

Mr. SPEAKER. It appears that the patient himself does not know his own state, and the statement made by the hon. member that Mr. Patrick does not think himself unable to perform his duties is, perhaps, the best evidence that he would not have been able to perform them this Session.

Mr. ANGLIN. I have had the pleasure of seeing Mr. Patrick to-day, and, so far as I can judge, I never saw him in better health, physically or intellectually.

Motion agreed to; and (at 3:40 o'clock, p.m.) the House adjourned.