

thanks Her loyal subjects, accepts their benevolence, and assents to this Bill."

THE SPEECH.

Then His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to deliver the following speech.

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate :
Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

I thank you for the care and deliberation with which you have discharged the duties that have devolved upon you during the Session.

The Bill you have passed relative to the management of Indian affairs and the gradual enfranchisement of Indians will not only be useful as a consolidation of existing Statutes, but will afford further evidence of the interest taken by the people of Canada in the welfare of their Indian fellow-countrymen. It is interesting to know that many of its provisions were suggested by the Indian Councils of the older Provinces.

It is my intention during the recess to make treaty arrangements with the Indian Tribes in the Western Saskatchewan country for the extinguishment of their title, and thereby open another large tract of fertile territory for settlement and cultivation.

The formation of the new District of Keewatin in the Eastern part of the North-West country, and the progress made in opening up railway and telegraphic communication to the interior will, with the improvements effected in our land system, further prepare the way for the rapid settlement of those vast regions, and will, at no distant day, materially contribute to the trade, and extend the prestige of the Dominion. I am glad to be able to say that we have now over 700 miles of telegraph in operation west of Red River.

The amendments made to the laws relating to elections for the House of Commons will, I trust, have the result of obtaining an unbiassed expression

of the opinion of the electors in selecting their representatives.

The measures you have passed for the purpose of securing a careful return of Criminal, Insolvency, and Railway Statistics will, I doubt not, be of essential service in promoting important objects, as well as in providing much needed information on each of these subjects.

Gentlemen of the House Commons :

I thank you for the supplies you have voted for the Public Service. I shall not fail to consider the clause you have attached to the vote for the works of construction on the Pacific Railway.

I am glad that a wise economy obviated the necessity of imposing any fresh taxation on the people; and I trust that increased commercial prosperity will justify your confidence in the future.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate :

Gentlemen of the House of Commons :

I regret I am unable to announce that any further progress has been made with the arrangements for the settlement of the compensation to be paid for our Fisheries, in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty of Washington.

I trust that on your return to your respective homes you may find the promise awaiting you of a prosperous season, and that your labours out of Session may be as useful and beneficial as they have been during your attendance in Parliament.

Then the Honourable the Speaker of the Senate said:—

Honourable Gentleman of the Senate ;

Gentlemen of the House of Commons :

It is His Excellency the Governor General's will and pleasure that this Parliament be prorogued until Monday, the twenty-second day of May next, to be here holden, and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued until Monday, the twenty-second day of May next.