

To this Bill the Royal Assent was signified in the following words:—

“In Her Majesty's name, His Excellency the Governor General thanks Her Loyal subjects, accepts their benevolence and assents to this Bill.”

After which His Excellency was pleased to deliver the following Speech to both Houses:—

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

In relieving you of the arduous labours which the present Session of Parliament has imposed on you, I rejoice that I am able to congratulate you on the number of important and useful measures which have resulted from your deliberations.

I have reason to hope that the authority which you have conferred on my Government, will enable them to conclude an arrangement for effective steam communication with *Europe* and with *Asia*, whereby the trade and commerce of *Canada* will be widely extended, and the traffic passing over her lines of communication, greatly developed.

You have again made liberal provision for extending the railway facilities of the Dominion and for increasing their efficiency.

The Act relating to the Electoral Franchise will, I believe, be found an important improvement, tending to economy and certainty in the administration of that branch of the law.

The measure by which the system of Speedy Trials for criminals has been extended to the Maritime Provinces, is likely to prove a valuable addition to our Criminal Procedure.

It is gratifying to know that your address, referring to the boundaries of *Ontario*, will lead to the early settlement of the principal question which has remained unsettled to the present time between that Province and the Dominion, in a manner entirely satisfactory to all concerned.

The amendment of the laws relating to Copyright, will, it is hoped, remove some of the embarrassments under which the printers and publishers of *Canada* have laboured for some years past, without doing injustice to authors in this or other countries.

You have provided for greater efficiency and economy in the Postal Service, for giving greater facilities for the settlement of our lands in the *North-West Territories*, and for increasing the safeguards of life and property on our ships.

Many of the other measures, although of a minor character, will be found of great usefulness in conducting the affairs of administration.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

You have liberally provided for the various requirements of the public service.

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

In taking leave of you, I congratulate you on the indications of prosperity which appear in all parts of *Canada*, and on the increasing revenue which promises amply to meet the appropriations for the year.

I sincerely hope that in the season which is now opening, the labours of our people may be blessed by Divine Providence, and that when it shall be my duty to summon you again, I shall be able to renew the congratulations which I have already expressed on the marked welfare and progress of the Dominion.

Then the Honourable the Speaker of the Senate said:—

*Honourable Gentlemen 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 Tuesday, the Eleventh day of June next, to be here holden, and this Parliament is, accordingly, prorogued until Tuesday, the Eleventh day of June next.