

The Honorable the Speaker commanded the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod to proceed to the House of Commons and acquaint that House—"It is His Excellency's pleasure they attend him immediately in this House."

Who, being come, with their Speaker,
His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to open the Session by a gracious speech to both Houses.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate,

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

In accordance with the intimation given by me at the close of last Session, I have caused Parliament to be summoned at the earliest moment after the receipt of the Report of the Commissioners appointed by me to enquire into certain matters connected with the *Canadian Pacific* Railway.

The evidence obtained under the Commission deserves careful consideration. The Report will be laid before Parliament, and it will be for you then to determine whether it can be of any assistance to you.

A Bill for the Consolidation and Amendment of the Laws in force in the several Provinces relating to the representation of the People in Parliament will again be submitted to you. By the postponement of this measure from last Session, you will have the advantage of including in its provisions the Province of *Prince Edward Island*, now happily united to *Canada*.

The *Canadian Pacific* Railway Company, to whom a Royal Charter was granted, have, I regret to say, been unable to make the financial arrangements necessary for the construction of that great undertaking. They have therefore executed a surrender of their Charter, which has been accepted by me.

You will, I trust, feel yourselves called upon to take steps to secure the early commencement and vigorous prosecution of the construction of that Railway, and thus to carry out, in good faith, the arrangement made with the Province of *British Columbia*.

A measure for this purpose will be submitted for your consideration.

The extension of the bounds of the Dominion has caused a corresponding increase in the work of administration, and seems to call for additional assistance in Parliament as well as in Executive Government. A Bill on this subject will be laid before you.

Your attention will be invited to the consideration of a Bill for the establishment of a General Court of Appeal.

Measures relating to our navigable waters and to the Inspection Laws, will be laid before you; as also, a Bill for the establishment of a Dominion Board of Agriculture.

The subject of the law relating to insolvency will necessarily engage your attention.

The efforts made by the several Provinces, as well as by the Dominion, to encourage immigration, have met with success, and a large number of valuable settlers has been added to our population. I do not doubt that you will continue your liberal aid to this important object.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,—

I have directed that the accounts of the past financial year shall be laid before you, The prosperous condition of our finances continues, and the revenue has been sufficient to meet all charges upon it.

The estimates for the ensuing year will be laid before you. They have been prepared with due regard to economy as well as to the efficiency of the public service; and I trust that the supplies, which are necessary, will be granted without inconvenience to the people.