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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 1874.

Parliament was opened in due form on the 26th inst.,  
 the Speech from the Throne being reserved until the fol-  
 lowing day. The following is the text of the Speech:—

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

I have convoked Parliament at the earliest moment con-  
 sistent with the delay entailed by the recent dissolution.

Your attention will be invited during the present session  
 to measures having reference to the representation of the peo-  
 ple in Parliament, embracing the system now prevailing in  
 Great Britain, and in most other countries enjoying constitu-  
 tional government, of taking votes by ballot, and to the estab-  
 lishment of a general Court of Appeals. Measures will also be  
 submitted to you for amendment of the law relating to Con-  
 troverted Elections, the Militia, and Insolvency.

The enactment of 1872, respecting the Canadian Pacific  
 Railway, having failed to secure the prosecution of that great  
 enterprise, you will be called upon to consider what plan will  
 best and most speedily provide the means of trans-continental  
 communication with British Columbia. A report of the Chief  
 Engineer will be laid before you, showing what progress was  
 made during the past year in the surveys connected with the  
 proposed line. The destruction of the railway offices by fire  
 involved a serious loss of maps, plans, and papers, the posses-  
 sion of which would have made the report more complete.

The canal and harbour improvements are being vigorously  
 prosecuted, with a view to ensure adequate accommodation  
 for the rapidly growing trade of the country. The report of  
 the Chief Engineer of the Department of Public Works on the  
 proposed canal between the Gulf of St. Lawrence and Bay of  
 Fundy will be submitted for your consideration. With the  
 progress already made in the construction of the Intercolonial  
 Railway, another year will be required to complete it. A re-  
 port, indicating its actual condition, will be laid before Parlia-  
 ment, and a measure will be introduced to vest in the Depart-  
 ment of Public Works the powers now exercised by the Board  
 of Railway Commissioners.

The question of compensation due to the Dominion for the  
 fishery privileges conceded to the United States by the Treaty  
 of Washington, has given rise to a renewal of negotiations  
 tending to widen reciprocal trade relations with that country.  
 At the instance of my Government, the Imperial authorities  
 have given directions to the British Minister to discuss the  
 whole subject with the Administration at Washington, and  
 have associated with him for this purpose a Canadian Commis-  
 sioner.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

The accounts of the last financial year will be laid before  
 you, as well as a statement of the receipts and expenditures of  
 the present year to the latest practicable period. I regret to  
 state that the receipts of the current year will not be sufficient  
 to meet the expenditures. It will therefore be necessary for  
 you to consider the best means to be adopted for making good  
 the anticipated deficiency. The estimates for the ensuing  
 year will be laid before you. They have been prepared with  
 as much regard to economy as is consistent with the efficiency  
 of the public service.

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

The combined efforts of the Dominion and Provincial Gov-  
 ernments to promote immigration have met with a reasonable  
 measure of success, thus adding a considerable number of de-  
 sirable persons from other countries to our industrial popula-  
 tion. Notwithstanding the commercial depression which,  
 through exceptional causes, prevailed to some extent during  
 the past year, it is satisfactory to know that the general pros-  
 perity was not thereby seriously affected. I do not doubt but  
 that, as the great natural resources of the Dominion become  
 more widely appreciated, the results will be a healthy stimu-  
 lus to the enterprise and energy of our people, and a still  
 larger accession to our numbers.

I trust that your deliberations may be directed by wisdom  
 and aided by Divine Providence.

The opening of Parliament was characterized by no  
 special features such as might have been expected on the  
 advent of a new Government. The speech from the  
 Throne being a very important document, we have felt in  
 duty bound to give it in its entirety. The reply to the  
 speech was confided to Mr. Moss, of West Toronto, for the  
 English members, and to Mr. Laurier, of Arthabaska, for  
 the French members. Mr. Moss did more than echo the  
 sentiments of the speech. He amplified them, and in  
 several instances showed a disposition to treat them in a  
 spirit of criticism. He contended that the deficit must  
 be laid at the door of the late administration, and urged  
 the necessity of a readjustment of the tariff. Speaking  
 of the Militia, he expected the question would be ap-  
 proached without party spirit. He paid a high compli-  
 ment to the volunteers. He held it to be the duty of the  
 Government to encourage the volunteers to continue their  
 services to the country. He always regarded their pay as  
 miserably inadequate to the work performed by the  
 militia. He believed a militia encouraged a national  
 spirit, and he believed in such a sentiment, not in a nar-  
 row "know-nothing" sense, but such as would seek to  
 build up this Dominion by welcoming to its shore the  
 toiling millions of Europe. Speaking of the insolvency  
 law, he was afraid no law on insolvency would give satis-  
 faction unless it gave one hundred cents in the dollar to  
 creditors and a free discharge to debtors. A system of  
 terrorism was exercised by debtors under the present  
 law. These were often perfectly able to pay all demands  
 upon them, but as things now existed they could force  
 their estates into insolvency to their own advantage. The  
 reply of Sir John A. Macdonald was moderate and in good  
 taste. He promised to maintain an attitude of fairness to  
 the Government while endeavouring to do his duty to his  
 party as leader of the Opposition. Mr. Masson, of Terre-  
 bonne, made a strong appeal for amnesty in the case of  
 Riel. We are pleased to see this gentleman coming for-  
 ward thus early in the session. His ability and social in-  
 fluence place him high in the estimation of all parties.  
 There was no real obstacle put to the passage of the  
 Address, and indeed the business of the session cannot  
 commence before next week.

We fear the attempt made to remove Sir John A. Mac-  
 donald from the leadership of the Opposition must be  
 characterized as a conspiracy. The attempt, if successful  
 would be suicidal and would stamp the Conservative party  
 with the brand of the blackest ingratitude. From our  
 latest intelligence, we are pleased to believe that it will  
 not be successful. Sir John cannot be dispensed with.  
 He is too closely associated with the destinies of the coun-  
 try thus to be set aside to please a few faint-hearted and  
 hypocritical followers. With all his faults, he is still a  
 prince among his peers, and, however his health may  
 have failed, he has recuperative energies enough to buoy  
 him up for a long future service to Canada. We can  
 afford to speak plainly on this subject. We predicted his  
 fall months before it occurred; we gave reasons why he  
 should retire from the Government of the country, and  
 we endorsed the action of the House which forced his  
 resignation. We have been independent in our views  
 throughout the whole crisis of last summer and autumn.  
 It is precisely for this reason that we now raise our voice  
 to protest against the indecency of those who would de-  
 prive us of Sir John's transcendent ability.

The case of Riel, member for Provencher, has taken a  
 dramatic turn. Silently, secretly and with much mystery  
 he has at length appeared at Ottawa. He signed his name  
 upon the list and was sworn in by the Clerk of the House  
 of Commons. This step had scarcely been taken when a  
 motion was passed requiring the Clerk of the Crown in  
 Chancery to attend the House with a return of the last  
 election for the District of Provencher, together with  
 poll books and all other papers, letters and documents  
 which may have any reference to that election. A reso-  
 lution was also passed to the effect that the Hon. H.  
 J. Clark, Attorney-General of the Province of Manitoba,  
 be summoned to the bar of the House to answer such  
 questions as may be put to him relative to the indictment  
 now before the Grand Jury, and a true bill returned by  
 the said Grand Jury against Louis Riel, member elect for  
 the District of Provencher, in the Province of Manitoba,  
 for the murder of Thomas Scott. At our present writing,  
 no more is known, but full developments in this exte-  
 mely important case may be expected before the present  
 issue of the News reaches its readers.

We have made arrangements to get a weekly letter from  
 Ottawa, during the session, chiefly devoted to a review of  
 the Parliamentary work, pen-and-ink sketches of the  
 principal members, graphic accounts of the incidents of  
 debate, along with piquant description of personal and  
 social episodes such as are of almost daily occurrence

in the Capital. We call the attention of our readers to  
 these letters which we have reason to believe will be full  
 of information and entertainment.

(For the Canadian Illustrated News.)

EXPERIENCES OF A "COMMERCIAL TRAVELLER."

BY "ONE OF THEM."

OWEN SOUND, Feb. 28, 1874.

Journeying from Barrie to Orillia on the Northern Extension  
 it is a matter of surprise to find how large a proportion  
 of men there are, even in these days of railroads, who have  
 never before travelled on one; this is observable on all new  
 roads. Nor are they more than half pleased with the intro-  
 duction of the iron horse; for a long time after its first neigh  
 the animal is regarded with suspicion. Railway horrors and  
 rumours of railway horrors have been industriously circulated  
 by the opponents of the new line, and the untravelled venture  
 on it with fear and trembling, and many of them grumblingly  
 express their preference for the lumbering farm waggon and  
 plodding farm team. Time changes all this. A few experiences  
 of the comforts of well-warmed, well-ventilated, and easy-  
 cushioned cars, as contrasted with the miseries and discom-  
 forts of a mud side road in the spring or fall of the year, soon  
 reconcile them to the "new dispensation." Farmers, too, are  
 the last men to ignore an increase of worldly gains, and when  
 they find that a railroad means a better price and a nearer  
 market for their produce, the dawning discovery is an effectual  
 gag to their first complaints.

The country through which the Northern Extension passes  
 does not give a stranger a very exalted idea of the advances  
 made by Canada in agriculture. The line is laid for miles  
 through timber tracts, where, as yet, the "rail" is the first  
 settler. That there must be large farmed districts in the  
 vicinity is, however, evidenced by the number of bucolic-look-  
 ing individuals who get on and off the trains at the stations  
*en route*; and it is from these yeomen we hear those expres-  
 sions of fear and distrust as to the safety of the cars. "Shanty-  
 men," who, at the close of a lumbering season, are constant  
 passengers on the road, display a marked contrast to the agri-  
 culturist in their indifference or contempt for railway dangers  
 in common with all other dangers—a more reckless, devil-  
 may-care class of men than these same shanty boys it would  
 be hard to find. Probably the constant jeopardy their lives  
 are placed in during their rough-and-tumble life in the woods  
 familiarizes them with danger.

A stranger arrived at Orillia station, on leaving the train,  
 would imagine he had arrived at the Grand Central depot of  
 some northern city, if he were to judge by the number of  
 hotel "touters" who clamour for his custom. A Babel of  
 sounds assails his ear, and should he ever have been at that  
 terror to all weak-minded tourists, Niagara Falls, its horrors  
 at once occur to his mind. Many and varied are the encom-  
 iums on their several hostleries which the "touters" indulge  
 in. "This way for the Albion Hotel, best house in town!"  
 "Second bus for the Orillia House, pass in your checks,  
 gents," "Queen's Hotel here, the only first-class hotel in the  
 city," "Russell House, sir? step right into the first bus for  
 the new Russell House,"—all of which are delivered in a very  
 high key, with the same unvarying rising intonation on the  
 last word, as if challenging any doubt of the excellence of the  
 house they so vociferously extol. There is no hope for a  
 traveller arrived at a station of this kind unless he takes a  
 firm stand; when you decide upon where you'll stop, don't  
 falter. Should you do so, you will never have had such a de-  
 monstrations that "he who hesitates is lost;" a display of weak  
 knees at such a critical moment will probably result in a por-  
 tion of you stopping at each hotel in the place, if it is in the  
 power of the "touters" to dismember you. I speak from per-  
 sonal and bitter experience. Well I remember my maiden  
 trip which led me to Hamilton; how at that place, instead of  
 at once taking the hotel bus, I was weak enough to listen to  
 the blandishments of a cabman who, seeing in me a green and  
 consequently eligible subject for the exercise of his wiles, de-  
 monstrated to his own satisfaction that it was much nicer and  
 more "the thing, you know," to ride up town in a cab than  
 an omnibus; how, when I had once wavered, and before I had  
 time to get into the cab, other Jehus rushed up and proffered  
 their services for something less than my first tempter, and  
 how I at once became the "bone of contention" for a throng  
 of excited, angry, and disputative "cabbies." What my ulti-  
 mate fate would have been I don't know, but I doubt whether  
 anything short of forcible dismemberment would have satisfied  
 them; such a sanguinary termination was, however, prevented  
 by the opportune arrival of the bus-driver of the Royal, who,  
 after a fierce but brief struggle, bore me off in triumph amid  
 the jeers and execrations of the "knights of the rein." Nor  
 did my punishment terminate here, for once in the bus I was  
 subjected to the scowls and sneers of my fellow passengers for  
 keeping them waiting.

When at Orillia this time I put up with mine host of the  
 "Orillia House," as it happened to be handiest to my cus-  
 tomers, but before reaching it, I found that the rivalry of the  
 little band of "touters" did not terminate with the acqui-  
 sition of customers. No sooner were the various conveyances  
 ready to start than a frantic rush was made for the station  
 gate, almost resulting in a jam, a consequence which would  
 have been fraught with disaster to the trembling and helpless  
 occupants. Danger to their passengers was, however, alto-  
 gether a secondary consideration to gaining first place with  
 our emulous drivers, and the open street once gained, we were  
 made unwilling parties to a most exciting and reckless "scrub"  
 race. I could not help thinking of the Mississippi steamboat  
 races, and must acknowledge to a feeling of satisfaction when  
 I found that our team headed the rest, and had reached town a  
 "length" ahead. Dismounting from the van, I was greeted  
 by the landlord of the "Orillia House," a man of many ail-  
 ments, and a sort of mi-anthropic philosopher, a very amusing  
 man to draw out, and let his opinions on all kinds of sub-  
 jects, for he has them, and is very dictatorial in his expression  
 of them, and has no hesitation in giving vent to his contempt  
 for all who differ from him. However, I found tarrying at his  
 house a man who at once enlisted my curiosity, the same  
 curiosity which one feels when he sees for the first time some  
 new specimen of the animal kingdom. This was a genuine  
 sample of the "Yankee Commercial Traveller," and a combi-  
 nation of ignorance, lankness, slang and blasphemy; full of  
 strange oaths, and fuller still of Canadian whiskey, he did not  
 hesitate to indulge his spleen, and trespass on the good-