

The opening of the Prince Edward Island Railway during the past year marks an epoch in the history of that Island, and cannot but exert a beneficial influence on the people, and add to their material prosperity.

Every effort has been made to obtain an early settlement of the claims of Canada for compensation for the use of her Fisheries by the United States, as provided by the Treaty of Washington. Her Majesty's Government in the early part of last summer, at the instance of my advisers, appointed the British Commissioner, but I regret to have to state that the United States Government have not yet appointed a Commissioner, and that consequently no progress has been made.

I have given effect to the Supreme and Exchequer Court Act of last Session by issuing the proclamation, and by appointing the Judges and officers of the Court.

A Bill to simplify and amend the law relating to Common Carriers will be submitted for your consideration.

A Bill will be brought before you containing provisions for affording greater security to policy holders in Life Assurance Companies.

The want of reliable and systematised information relating to the several classes of crime and the importance of collecting and classifying criminal statistics have engaged my attention. A Bill will be introduced to provide for what is most essential in this direction.

You will be asked to make provision for the commencement of the work of consolidating the statute law.

The Acts relating to the enfranchisement of Indians and the management of Indian affairs have been fully considered, and steps have been taken to ascertain the views of the Indians themselves. A measure on this subject will be submitted for your approval.

A measure will be introduced to provide for the better administration of the estates of insolvent banks.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:—

The accounts for the past and the estimates for the next financial year will be laid before you. The estimates have been framed with every possible economy consistent with the public interests. I regret that the depression in trade to which I have alluded, has seriously affected the revenue. It will be necessary in view of this circumstance to curtail the expenditures in several branches of the public service.

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

Correspondence, reports, and other papers regarding the construction of the Pacific Railway will be laid before you.

During the recess, a deputation from the Government of Manitoba visited Ottawa to invite the attention of the Government of the Dominion to the circumstances of that Province. They represented that the income of the Province was insufficient to provide for its ordinary governmental expenses. The papers on this subject will be laid before you, and certain propositions will be submitted for your consideration. The Legislature of Manitoba has, in the meantime, adopted some measures to reduce the expenditures of the Province.

I invite your earnest attention to the several subjects mentioned, and to the general business which will come before you, and I trust that your deliberations may be guided by wisdom and moderation.

After the Commoners retired, the SPEAKER took the chair.

Hon. Mr. LETELLIER DE ST. JUST moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. SCOTT, "That all the members present during the session be appointed a Committee to consider the letters and customs of this House and privileges of Parliament, and that the said Committee have leave to meet in this House when and as often as they please." Carried.

Hon. Mr. LETELLIER DE ST. JUST moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. SCOTT, "That this House do now adjourn, and that it do stand adjourned until Monday next at 3 o'clock in the afternoon." Carried.

The House adjourned at 4.10 p.m.

MONDAY, Feb. 14.

The President took the chair at 3 o'clock.

Prayers were read.

After routine,

THE ADDRESS.

Hon. M. PAQUET rose to move the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. He said:—In accepting the task, difficult enough for me, of proposing the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, I am sensible of two obligations it carries with it:—The first, that of the fulfilment of a constitutional usage; and the other, to avail myself of the right