

to offer to members of Parliament a grand excursion over the road on that occasion and to invite all the members, even those who have voted against the Pacific Railway, and I believe the greater party, which is so well represented by the hon. gentleman who spoke before me, and I may say that those who cannot take part in that grand excursion will be afforded an opportunity to visit the Pacific coast during the year at no cost to themselves.

Mr. MITCHELL. I forgot to thank you, Mr. Speaker, but I do so now, for the amount of forbearance you have always shown me, and the manner in which you have presided over the deliberations of this House.

Mr. TROW. I rise with considerable diffidence to say a few words. I had no intention of doing so, because I thought my respected leader would close this sitting. I presume he is busy, so it devolves upon some one to say a few words, of mutual congratulation I suppose, as is usual on these occasions. I congratulate the Government, as did the hon. member for Ottawa (Mr. Tassé), as to the great success of the Canadian Pacific Railway. I have travelled along that line, and, having been a close observer of things by the way, I was highly delighted with my trip. It is almost a world wonder, the magnitude of that work, the difficulties they had to encounter, and the rapid progress they have made. We have had rather an interesting Session, rather unusually so. The debates have been exceedingly lively, and unusual subjects have been undertaken by members of the House. For instance, at the outset we undertook the Riel discussion. That was certainly a real discussion. There was nothing assumed about that. I had intended on one occasion to say a few words myself, but my extreme modesty prevented me. My reason for intending to do so was that I knew something about the circumstances of the case, I was well acquainted with the principal parties who took an interest in that war, I was acquainted with Gabriel Dumont, and I must say that I presume I am the only gentleman in this House who had a private interview with Mr. Riel, four days before his execution. I had the honor, through Colonel Richardson and the Lieutenant Governor, of having an interview of over half an hour or three quarters of an hour with Riel, four days before his execution, and therefore I felt an interest in explaining my views in that discussion. Other lively discussions have taken place. We have had Home Rule, and we have had also a few scandals. I am sorry sometimes that we have to listen to old exploded notions, that should be exploded at all events and buried in oblivion. I wish that hon. members were confined to a certain political portion of our history, and only referred back to subjects for a few years. We are in the habit of going back too far, even prior to Confederation. I think there is ample for discussion and intelligible debate that has taken place in the country politically during the last few years, and I think it would be advisable that our members on both sides of the House would curtail their speeches and make them not only more brief but more to the point. However, I presume that any deliberative body sometimes exaggerates and gets a little astray on both sides. I regret very much the illness of the Premier, that he was confined to his house for so long a time and was unable to take part in the discussions of this House. We found the loss of his presence for various reasons. One was that he seems to have the command and control of men probably better than any other individual in the Dominion. I noticed one evening here that the majority was reduced to about twenty, and I was very much elated, but the next morning the Premier made his appearance quite early. If we had brought it down to ten, probably he would have been here before breakfast. Other members of the Cabinet have been afflicted. It is something remarkable, whether it is the onerous duties these gentlemen have to perform or the

Mr. TASSÉ.

great responsibilities they have to undertake, or the confinement, or the excessive labor, at all events some unaccountable thing seems to injure their health. My advice to these gentlemen, in the event of a general election or otherwise, would be to take their positions over here. As a rule we are all healthy.

Mr. LANDERKIN. And hungry.

Mr. TROW. We are not by any means fond of opposition, and I believe it would be a relief to hon. gentlemen, judging from their state of health, that it would be better for them, better for the country and for all around if we changed positions, and I have no doubt, if a general election takes place, that will be the result. There seems to be a rumor afloat that an election will take place. I have a little inclination to go to the old country, and I hope it will take place before I start. My hope is that the members of the Executive may improve in health. We would like to see them here again, but on this side of the House. Before I take my seat I wish to give credit to the hon. Minister of Public Works, who is the most indefatigable worker I know of, and who both day and night has shown a wonderful amount of vitality, push, pluck and determination. In fact, we have all done our duty. No man has worked harder than the leader of the Opposition, and no man in this Dominion is better prepared to analyse and perfect the measures of the Government. The country is under a deep debt of gratitude to the Hon. Edward Blake for his determination to see that everything is done in a proper and legitimate manner.

PROROGATION.

A Message from His Excellency the Governor General by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod :

Mr. SPEAKER,

His Excellency the Governor General desires the immediate presence of this House in the Senate Chamber.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, with the House, went up to the Senate.

IN THE SENATE CHAMBER.

His Excellency was pleased to give, in Her Majesty's name, the Royal Assent to the following Bills:—

- An Act to incorporate the Continental Bank of Canada.
- An Act respecting the Niagara Grand Island Bridge Company.
- An Act to incorporate a Community of Religious Ladies under the name of the Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus.
- An Act respecting the Railway from Esquimalt to Nanaimo, in British Columbia.
- An Act respecting the Union Suspension Bridge.
- An Act relating to the Canada Southern Bridge Company.
- An Act to reduce the Capital Stock of the Bank of New Brunswick.
- An Act respecting the Pictou Bank.
- An Act respecting the Burlington Bay Canal.
- An Act to incorporate the Medicine Hat Railway and Coal Company.
- An Act to incorporate the Calvin Company (Limited).
- An Act to amend the Act to incorporate the Lake Nipissing and James' Bay Railway Company.
- An Act to naturalise Girolamo Consentini, commonly called Baron Girolamo Consentini.
- An Act to amend the several Acts relating to the Board of Trade of the City of Toronto.
- An Act further to amend "The Post Office Act, 1875."
- An Act further to amend "The Interpretation Act."
- An Act to incorporate the Anglo-Canadian Bank.
- An Act to amend the Act incorporating the Canada Atlantic Railway Company.
- An Act to amend the Act to incorporate the Nova Scotia Steamship Company (Limited).
- An Act to incorporate the Tecumseh Insurance Company of Canada.
- An Act to amend the Act to incorporate the West Ontario Pacific Railway Company.
- An Act to grant certain powers to The Sable and Spanish Boom and Slide Company of Algoma (Limited).
- An Act to incorporate the E. B. Eddy Manufacturing Company.
- An Act to reduce the Capital Stock of the Union Bank of Lower Canada, and to change the corporate name thereof to the "Union Bank of Canada."
- An Act to reduce the Capital Stock of the Union Bank of Halifax.