

Pursuant to the Order of the Day, the following Petitions were severally read :—

Of the Western Counties Railway Company; praying for the passing of an Act changing the name of the said Company to "The Yarmouth and Annapolis Railway Company," and for other purposes; and

Of the Grand Trunk, Georgian Bay and Lake Erie Railway Company; praying for the passing of an Act extending the time for building certain branches, and for other purposes.

Pursuant to the Order of the Day, the House resumed the adjourned Debate on the Honourable Mr. Ferguson's motion, viz. :—

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor-General, to offer the respectful thanks of this House to His Excellency for the gracious Speech he has been pleased to make to both Houses of Parliament, namely :—

To HIS EXCELLENCY the Right Honourable Sir FREDERICK ARTHUR STANLEY, Baron Stanley of Preston, in the County of Lancaster, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Governor-General of Canada.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY :—

We, Her Majesty's dutifull and loyal subjects, the Senate of Canada in Parliament assembled, humbly thank Your Excellency for your gracious speech at the opening of this Session.

We rejoice that Your Excellency, in meeting us at the commencement of another Session of Parliament, has the pleasure of congratulating us on the continued progress which the history of the past year unfolds with regard to Canada.

We are glad to learn from Your Excellency that the increase in trade, as illustrated by the exports and imports during the period for which the official returns have been prepared, has been most gratifying, and has continued down to the present time, with promise that the volume of trade during the current year will exceed that of any year in the history of the Dominion.

It affords us much pleasure to hear that the revenues of the country have likewise provided for all the services for which Parliament has made appropriation, and that the operation of the Government railways has been less burdensome, as regards the difference between income and expenditure, than has been the case for a long term of years previously.

We are also gratified to hear that in Manitoba and the North-west Territories the increase in immigration has been decidedly encouraging, both as regards the number of persons who have come from other countries and as regards the number of homestead entries made by settlers of all nationalities.

We thank Your Excellency for informing us that measures have been taken to carry into effect the agreements arrived at with the United States on the subjects of the boundary of Alaska, the boundary line in Passamaquoddy Bay, and the prevention of destructive methods of fishing and the preservation and increase of fish life. We are glad to be informed further, with regard to reciprocity in wrecking and towing, that though a correspondence has taken place which indicates that privileges are demanded for United States vessels in Canadian canals, which were not anticipated, it is not impossible that a satisfactory conclusion of the discussion may yet be reached.

We hear with great interest the announcement that during the recess a friendly conference took place between delegates from Your Excellency's Government and from the Government of Newfoundland, on the questions which were pending between the two countries, and that it is hoped and expected that the interchange of views which then took place will be productive of beneficial results and lead to an amicable adjustment of those questions.