

vention respecting fisheries, concluded in the year 1818 between the United Kingdom and the United States, and Canada being also interested in the question at issue, my Government has joined with the Government of Newfoundland in an agreement to refer all matters of difference arising under said Article 1 to the Hague Tribunal.

The difficulty of obtaining labour and materials at a time of great business activity has somewhat retarded the construction of the National Transcontinental Railway. Nevertheless great progress has been made both on the Eastern Division and on the prairie section of the Western Division. A section of the latter of about two hundred and fifty miles has been available for handling the traffic of the present season. Contracts for the portion of the prairie section west of Edmonton are about to be let, and immediate steps will be taken for the commencement of work at both the eastern and western ends of the Mountain Division. Thus, in a very short time, the whole work from Moncton to the Pacific Ocean will be under vigorous construction.

The unexpected influx of immigrants from Oriental countries into British Columbia aroused a strong feeling of opposition. A member of my Government has been deputed to proceed to Japan to confer with the Japanese Government on this subject.

The sudden and unexpected collapse of the great cantilever bridge in course of construction across the St. Lawrence, in the vicinity of Quebec, may be regarded as a national calamity and the event has evoked much sorrow for the lives which were lost on that occasion. A Commission has been appointed to inquire into the causes which led to the disaster. When received, the report of the Commission will be laid before you. It will be necessary to devise means for the completion of the bridge within a reasonable time.

It is most gratifying to find that, notwithstanding the large reductions of postal rates which have been made, the revenue of the Post Office Department has continued to increase rapidly. The large receipts of this branch of the Government business will enable the Department to make still more liberal provision for the extension of postal facilities throughout the Dominion.

The time has arrived when the public interest requires that telegraph and telephone companies holding Federal charters should be placed under Government control. A Bill will be introduced for that purpose.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

The Public Accounts for the nine months ending 31st March last will be laid before you without delay.

The estimates for the coming fiscal year will be submitted for your approval at an early day.

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

Among the measures to be submitted to you is a Bill for the extension of the boundaries of Manitoba and of other provinces; also a Bill to provide for the issue of Government Annuities for old age; a Bill respecting Insurance; and Bills to amend the Election Act and Dominion Lands Act.

I commend to your thoughtful consideration the several subjects to which I have referred and I trust that in your deliberations you may be guided by Divine light.

His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to retire, and the House of Commons withdrew.

After some time the Senate was resumed.

The Honourable Mr. Scott, Secretary of State, presented to the Senate, a Bill intitled: "An Act relating to Railways."