

Instruction. He may take any one of three courses: Assent—withhold assent—reserve the Bill for the Signification of the Queen's Pleasure.

It would be the duty of the Governor-General, as the representative of the British Government, to refuse assent to any bill that was contrary to the interests of the Empire, that would for instance be contrary to treaty obligations.

Disallowance by order in Council of Act assented to by Governor General.

56. Where the Governor General assents to a Bill in the Queen's Name, he shall by the first convenient Opportunity send an authentic Copy of the Act to One of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, and if the Queen in Council within Two Years after Receipt thereof by the Secretary of State thinks fit to disallow the Act, such Disallowance (with a Certificate of the Secretary of State of the Day on which the Act was received by him) being signified by the Governor General, by Speech or Message to each of the Houses of the Parliament or by Proclamation, shall annul the Act from and after the Day of such Signification.

Signification of Queen's pleasure on Bill Reserved.

57. A Bill reserved for the Signification of the Queen's Pleasure shall

not have any Force unless and until within Two Years from the Day on which it was presented to the Governor General for the Queen's Assent, the Governor General signifies, by Speech or Message to each of the Houses of the Parliament or by Proclamation, that it has received the Assent of the Queen in Council.

An Entry of every such Speech, Message, or Proclamation shall be made in the Journal of each House, and a duplicate thereof duly attested shall be delivered to the proper Officer to be kept among the Records of Canada.

NOTES: The power of disallowance is exercised with great caution both by the British Government with respect to Dominion legislation and by the Dominion Government towards Provincial Legislation.

"The same powers of disallowance that belonged to the Imperial Government previously to 1867, with respect to acts passed by colonial legislatures, have been conferred by the B. N. A. Act on the government of the Dominion." "Nearly 8,000 Acts have been passed, from 1867 to 1887 inclusive" by provincial legislatures, "but not more than 45 altogether have been disallowed" by the Dominion Government.—*Bourinot*.

THE NEW NORTH-WEST PASSAGE TO THE ORIENT.

BY J. MACDONALD OXLEY.

IT has been very well said that the Canadian Pacific Railway was a national enterprise, is a national highway, and will be a national heirloom; and yet there were many times during the various stages of its promotion and prosecution when, judged according to all human standards, the chances seemed to be ten to one that it would prove the cause of national ruin, perchance irreparable.

burdened with cash, and having a population numbering less than six million souls, thinly scattered across a continent, to undertake the longest continuous line of railway yet constructed, for the purpose of binding her sundered provinces together, was one of those daring enterprises the wisdom of which can be justified only by their success, and it is pleasant to have the knowledge that in this case