

“In Her Majesty’s name, His Excellency the Governor General thanks Her loyal subjects, accepts their benevolence, and assents to this Bill.”

After which His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to deliver the following Speech to both Houses :—

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate :*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :—*

I have much satisfaction in relieving you from an attendance in Parliament which cannot fail to be inconvenient to many of you at this season of the year. I thank you therefore all the more for the time and attention which you have diligently bestowed on the discharge of your public duties.

The interest and importance of various questions which have been discussed and decided will render the Session memorable in the annals of the Country.

Your adoption of the Articles of the Treaty of *Washington*, which affect *Canadian* interests, has placed in a clear light your determination to share the fortunes of *England*.

The generous disposition evinced under the trying circumstances of the time, has added strength to the honorable position of *Canada*, both as regards the *British Empire* and the *United States*.

The vast project, of which you have so wisely matured the conditions for carrying a Railway to the shores of the *Pacific*, will open a new pathway for *England*, as well in peace as in war, to the East, and will, I trust, be productive of the most essential benefits to this Dominion by giving facilities to traffic of all descriptions, enhancing the value of the public lands, promoting their settlement, and drawing closer the ties which bind the sister Provinces together by easier access and multiplied intercourse.

Few who have not considered the subject have any adequate conception how large an extent of economical advantage, the possession of great navigable Rivers like the *St. Lawrence* and its tributaries comprises. The outlay you have sanctioned on their improvement, and on that of the auxiliary canals, is a safe investment. It will be amply and speedily repaid by the augmented volume of trade flowing down all the channels opened to its course, for it will be swollen by the confluence of your own accumulating productions with those of your Western neighbours.

It is highly satisfactory that the condition of the revenue is so prosperous as to enable you to advance the interests of the Country by commencing the construction of these works at once, without delay or misgiving.

*Gentlemen of The House of Commons :—*

In Her Majesty’s name, I thank you for the Supplies which you have so cheerfully granted.

I heartily congratulate you on the prosperous condition of the revenue, and on your having been enabled, by the repeal of the duties on Tea and Coffee, to diminish the burdens of the people.

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate,*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :—*

The Joint Address with which you have honored me on the eve of my departure is most agreeable to my feelings.

I shall, I assure you, hold in grateful recollection all my life the expression of your respect and esteem.

I have watched with deep interest in my official capacity the proceedings of four Sessions, and made myself otherwise acquainted with the views and wishes of the Parliament and people of *Canada*, and I earnestly hope that the good intelligence which prevails between them and the people of *England* may last constant and unimpaired for generations to come.