

73. An Act to incorporate "The National Exchange Company."

Then the Honourable the Speaker of the House of Commons addressed His Excellency the Governor-General as follows:—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

In the name of the Commons, I present to your Excellency a Bill intituled—

An Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money required for defraying certain expenses of the Public Service for the financial years ending respectively the 30th June, 1876, and the 30th June, 1877, and for other purposes relating to the public service;

to which I humbly request your Excellency's assent.

To this Bill the Royal assent was signified in the following words:—

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 close the Third Session of the Third Parliament of the Dominion with the following

SPEECH:

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate—
Gentlemen of the House of Commons:—*

I thank you for the care and deliberation with which you have discharged the duties that have devolved upon you during the session.

The Bill you have passed relative to the management of Indian affairs and the gradual enfranchisement of Indians will not only be useful as a consolidation of existing Statutes, but will afford further evidence of the interest taken by the people of Canada in the welfare of their Indian fellow countrymen. It is interest-

ing to know that many of its provisions were suggested by the Indian Councils of the older Provinces.

It is my intention during the recess to make treaty arrangements with the Indian tribes in the Western Saskatchewan country for the extinguishment of their title, and thereby open another large tract of fertile territory for settlement and cultivation.

The formation of the new District of Keewatin, in the eastern part of the North-west country, and the progress made in opening up railway and telegraphic communication to the interior will, with the improvements effected in our land system, further prepare the way for the rapid settlement of those vast regions, and will, at no distant day, materially contribute to the trade and extend the prestige of the Dominion. I am glad to be able to say that we have now over 700 miles of telegraph in operation west of the Red River.

The amendments made to the laws relating to elections for the House of Commons will, I trust, have the result of obtaining an unbiassed expression of the opinion of the electors in selecting their representatives.

The measures you have passed for the purpose of securing a careful return of criminal, insolvency, and railway statistics will, I doubt not, be of essential service in promoting important objects, as well as in providing much needed information on each of these subjects.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:—

I thank you for the supplies you have voted for the public service. I shall not fail to consider the clause you have attached to the vote for the works of construction on the Pacific Railway.