

Honorable T. W. Anglin then informed His Excellency that the choice of the House of Commons had fallen upon him to be their Speaker, and he prayed for the members thereof the customary Parliamentary privilege.

After which His Excellency was pleased to deliver the following

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE:

Hon. Gentlemen of the Senate, Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

I have convoked Parliament with the least possible delay consistent with the delay entailed by the recent dissolution.

Your attention will be invited during the present session to measures having reference to the representation of the people in Parliament, embracing the system now prevailing in Great Britain and most other countries enjoying Constitutional Government, of taking votes by ballot, and to the establishment of a General Court of Appeal.

Measures will also be submitted to you for the amendment of the laws relating to controverted elections, the Militia and Insolvency.

The enactment of 1872 respecting the Canadian Pacific Railway, having failed to secure the prosecution of that great enterprise, you will be called upon to consider what plan will best and most speedily provide the means of trans-continental communication with British Columbia. A report of the Chief Engineer will be laid before you, shewing what progress was made during the past year in the surveys connected with the proposed line. The destruction of the Railway offices by fire involved a serious loss of maps, plans and papers, the possession of which would have made the report more complete.

The Canal and Harbor improvements are being vigorously prosecuted with a view to ensure adequate accommodation for the rapidly growing trade of the country.

The report of the Chief Engineer of the Department of Public Works on the proposed canal between the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Bay of Fundy will be submitted for your consideration.

With the progress already made in the construction of the Intercolonial Railway, another year will be required to complete it.

A report indicating its actual condition will be laid before Parliament, and a measure will be introduced to vest in the Department of Public Works the powers now exercised by the Board of Railway Commissioners.

The question of compensation due to the Dominion for the privileges of the United States by the Treaty of Washington, has given rise to a renewal of negotiations tending to widen reciprocal trade relations with that country. At the instance of my Government, the Imperial authorities have given directions to the British Minister to discuss the whole subject with the Administration at Washington and have associated with him for this purpose a Canadian Commissioner.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

The accounts of the last financial year, will be laid before you, as well as a statement of the receipts and expenditure of the present year to the latest practicable period.

I regret to state that the receipts of the current year will not be sufficient to meet the expenditure. It will therefore be necessary for you to consider the best means to be adopted for making good the anticipated deficiency.

The estimates for the ensuing year will be laid before you. They have been prepared with as much regard for economy as is consistent with the efficiency of the Public Service.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate,

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

The combined efforts of the Dominion and Provincial Governments to promote Immigration have met with a reasonable measure of success, thus adding a considerable number of desirable persons from other countries to our industrial population.

Notwithstanding the commercial depression which, through exceptional causes, prevailed to some extent during the past year, it is satisfactory to know that the general prosperity was not thereby seriously affected. I do not doubt but that as the great natural resources of the Dominion become more widely appreciated, the results will be a healthy stimulus to the enterprise and energy of our people, and a still larger accession to our numbers.

I trust that your deliberations may be directed by wisdom and aided by Divine Providence.

The great bulk of the spectators now retired, and the floor having been left to the members of the Senate, the Speaker, Hon. Mr. CHRISTIE, took the chair.

After some routine business,

Hon. Mr. LETELLIER introduced a bill for the incorporation of a company. He next moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Scott,