

OPENING OF THE DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

The Parliament of Canada was opened yesterday, in the customary form by His Excellency Earl Grey.

THE SPEECH FROM THRONE.

Honourable gentlemen of the Senate, gentlemen of the House of Commons, in again summoning you to meet for the despatch of business, I am glad to be able to congratulate you on the prosperity prevailing throughout the Dominion.

The severe bereavement which Queen Alexandra has sustained through the death of her father, the King of Denmark, has occasioned much sorrow throughout the Empire, and I am satisfied that the warm sympathy of the people of Canada will be readily extended to Her Majesty.

It afforded me much pleasure as the representative of His Majesty to take part in the inauguration of the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan as constituent members of the confederation. The universal rejoicing on the assumption of provincial autonomy everywhere visible, was gratifying to witness, and I venture to say that in no part of the world could a more contented population be found. The universal sentiment was one of abounding confidence in the future.

The bountiful harvest with which we have been blessed in the past season, together with the continued development of our industries and transportation facilities, have so stimulated business in all parts of Canada, and have given such an impetus to our exports and imports that the trade, both with the United Kingdom and foreign countries for the current fiscal year gives promise of being the largest on record. The flow of immigrants seeking homes in the three prairie provinces still continues, and from the present outlook the number will be in excess of any previous year, and it is gratifying to note the increasing proportion from the British Isles.

The rapid destruction of our forests now going on will, unless the operations of the lumber men be prudently regulated in the future, and a system of reforestation adopted, result in grave consequences, affecting the uniform flow of rivers and limiting our valuable water powers to a few months in the year. A bill will be submitted for your consideration empowering the Government to set apart forest reserves on land under its control.

INSURANCE INVESTIGATION, ETC.

The result of the investigation into the administration of leading life insurance companies in the neighbouring republic has naturally created some uneasiness in the public mind as to the condition of Canadian companies. A commission has, therefore, been issued to inquire into and report on the management and financial standing, not only of companies holding Canadian charters, but also of all

companies doing business under license in Canada.

Satisfactory progress is being made in the exploration and surveys of the eastern division of the National Trans-Continental Railway, and it is expected that contracts for the construction of two important sections embracing together about 400 miles will shortly be executed.

The other topics were, the Treaty with Japan, the Waterways Commission, the Transportation Commission and Legislation to be introduced.

PROMINENT TOPICS.

MONTREAL CITY BILL.—What a pity it is that Montreal Alderman should decide to go to Quebec year after year to secure Charter amendments.

While some amendments may be desirable, yet it seems to us that the city comes off second best in these arrangements and opportunities are given to interested parties to carry out some schemes of their own which are not in the interests of the city.

We submit that, in our judgment, the Consolidated Charter was an excellent one and safeguarded the best interests of the city. Under its provisions the city was getting into an excellent financial position. Changes were adopted which swept away some of the and more opened up the door to the expropriation business.

It would add to the credit of the city if the financial basis of the city were not disturbed year after year

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The Montreal Bill has been withdrawn as the civic representatives refused to accept the amendments adopted by the Legislative Council.

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CONDUITS.—The city asked for power to build conduits, which would cost an enormous sum, and no doubt the building of which would be far greater than if done by private corporations. We understand the power asked for was obtained on condition, however, that the city compensate the various companies for their poles, wires and other accessories, charging a rental to the companies for the use of the conduits being a percentage on the capital outlay.

The companies were quite willing to build their own conduits within a limited period. It is evident that, as usual, the city came off second best in this instance.

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GAS WORKS.—The city asked for power to erect gas works and thus enter into competition with the present company. This power was obtained conditional upon its purchasing the present Gas Company as a going concern, the price to be settled by arbitration. The city again came off second best.