

In pursuance of the vote of last Session I caused a vessel to be fitted out and dispatched to Davis' Straits and Hudson's Bay, in order to obtain more accurate information as to the navigation of those waters, and test the practicability of the route for commercial purposes.

A report of the progress of the expedition during the last season will be laid before you.

An International Exhibition will be opened at Antwerp during the present year, and a Colonial and Indian Exhibition is to be held in London in 1886. Canada should, I think, be represented in her various manufactures and natural productions on both occasions, and I invoke your consideration of the best means of aiding in these important objects.

Several other measures of importance will be submitted to you; among them will be Bills to amend the Insurance Act of 1877, the Civil Service Act, and the law relating to contagious diseases among cattle, as well as measures for taking, at an early period, a census of the population of the North-West Territories, and one relating to the North-West Mounted Police.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

The accounts for the past fiscal year will be laid before you. You will find that notwithstanding the very considerable reduction in the prices and volume of many of the leading imports, the income has exceeded the expenditure chargeable to Consolidated Revenue.

The Estimates for the ensuing year will also be submitted. They will be found, I trust, to have been prepared with due regard to economy.

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate :*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

I am sure that your earnest consideration will be given to the subjects I have mentioned, as well as to every matter which may affect the prosperity and good government of Canada.

His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to retire, and the House of Commons withdrew.

The Honorable Sir Alexander Campbell presented to the House, a Bill intituled : " An Act relating to Railways."

The said Bill was read for the first time.

The Honorable the Speaker reported His Excellency's Speech from the Throne and the same was then read by the Clerk.

On motion of the Honorable Sir Alexander Campbell, seconded by the Honorable Sir David Lewis Macpherson, it was

Ordered, That the House do take into consideration the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General to-morrow.

On motion of the Honorable Sir Alexander Campbell, seconded by the Honorable Sir David Lewis Macpherson, it was

Ordered, That all the Members present during this Session be appointed a Committee to consider the Orders and Customs of this House and Privileges of Parliament, and that the said Committee have leave to meet in this House, when and as often as they please.

The Honorable the Speaker presented to the House,—The Report of the Acting Librarian on the state of the Library of Parliament.

The same was then read by the Clerk, as follows :—