

I am happy to be able to congratulate you on the abundant harvest reaped in all quarters of the Dominion; and I rejoice that under this and other influences there has been some improvement in the Revenue returns, thus indicating, I trust, that the commercial depression that has so long afflicted *Canada*, in common with other countries, is passing away.

My attention has been called to some imperfections in the existing system of auditing the Public Accounts, and a measure providing for their more thorough and effective supervision will be submitted for your consideration.

The prospect of obtaining, at an early day, greater facilities for reaching the *North Western Territories* and the Province of *Manitoba*, is sure to attract a larger number of settlers every year, and as much of the prosperity of the Dominion depends on the rapid settlement of the fertile lands in these Territories, it is desirable and necessary to facilitate such settlement as much as possible. In order to effect this, measures will be submitted for your consideration concerning the registration of titles, the enactment of a Homestead Law, and the promotion of Railway enterprise in districts not touched by the *Canada Pacific* Railway.

Your attention will be called to a measure for better securing the independence of Parliament.

Experience has shown that certain changes may advantageously be made in the departmental arrangements existing at present. A bill will be submitted to you for accomplishing this purpose without increasing the expenditure, or the number of Departments.

It is very desirable that there should be uniform legislation in all the Provinces respecting the traffic in spirituous liquors. Hitherto that trade has been regulated by Provincial laws, or laws existing before the Confederation of the Provinces, although there has been lately a conflict of authority as to the jurisdiction of the local authorities. A bill making the necessary provision will be submitted for your consideration.

Various measures found necessary for the amendment of existing laws will also be submitted for your approval.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

The Estimates for the ensuing year will be laid before you at an early day. They have been prepared with an anxious desire to provide for all the branches of the public service and the execution of pressing public works within the limits of the expected revenue, without increasing the burden of taxation.

I have directed that the Public Accounts of the past financial year shall be laid before you.

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

The Honorable Mr. *Scott* 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 Mr. *Scott*, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Pelletier*, it was

*Ordered*, That the House do take into consideration the speech of His Excellency the Governor General on Monday next.

On motion of the Honorable Mr. *Scott*, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Pelletier*, it was