

the small homestead owner of undue burdens now imposed upon them, must make it unprofitable to hold land for speculation; and thus throw open abundant opportunities for the employment of labor and the building up of homes.

"While thus simplifying government by doing away with the horde of officials required by the present system of taxation and with its incentives to fraud and corruption, we would further promote the common weal and further secure the rights of all by placing under public control such agencies as are in their nature monopolies; we would have our municipalities supply their inhabitants with water, light and heat; we would have the General Government issue all money without the intervention of banks; we would add a postal telegraph system and postal savings banks to the postal service, and would assume public control and ownership of those iron roads which have become the highways of modern commerce."

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

LONDON, Sept. 16.—Following is the Queen's speech closing the session of Parliament:—

My Lords and Gentlemen:

My relations with the other powers continue friendly. The protracted negotiations between Russia and myself regarding the frontier which we should agree to recognize as the northern limit of Afghanistan, have been brought to a satisfactory termination. The Ameer readily accepted the boundary. I hope that the convention will powerfully conduce to the maintenance of a durable peace in Central Asia. The treaty between Great Britain and China with reference to relations between China and Burmah has been ratified.

The confident hope I expressed that a general pacification of Burmah would be effected during the present year has been fully realized. A settled government is being gradually introduced in its remote districts. The convention which was concluded between Turkey and myself for the purpose of defining the conditions under which it would be possible for me to undertake the withdrawal of my troops from Egypt at a fixed date has not been ratified by the Sultan. The course of action imposed upon me by my obligations to the ruler of the people of Egypt remains unchanged. The presence of my forces has secured to Egypt the blessings of tranquillity, and has enabled me to effectually support the Khedive's efforts to promote good government and the prosperity of his people.

I have agreed with the authorities of the United States to refer to a joint commission the difficult question respecting the North American fisheries which has recently been discussed by the two nations.

With singular satisfaction I mention the assemblage of the first conference of representatives of my colonies ever held in London. Their deliberations, directed to many matters of deep practical interest to their respective communi-

ties, and conducted in a spirit of hearty co-operation, will, I doubt not, add strength to the affection by which the various parts of my Empire are bound together.

The Queen thanks the House of Commons for liberal provision for the public service, and continues:

There is some ground for hoping that the grave depression under which all commercial and industrial interests have lain so long is assuming a less severe character. I deeply grieve to add that there is no mitigation of the suffering under which large portions of the agricultural community continue to labor.

The wants and difficulties of Ireland have occupied your close attention during a protracted session. I trust the remedies your wisdom has provided will gradually effect a complete restoration of order in Ireland and give renewed encouragement to peaceful industry. In order to pass them it has been necessary to pass over many important measures affecting other parts of the Kingdom, which, doubtless, you will be able to resume without hindrance at the coming session.

After reference to the allotments, coal mines, merchandize, marks and criminal procedure in Scotland acts, the Queen concludes:

This year, the fiftieth anniversary of my reign, has been the occasion of the expression of fervent loyalty, which has deeply touched me. I am indeed truly thankful for the warm, hearty proofs of affection which have reached me from all classes. In thanking God for the blessings He has vouchsafed me and my country, I trust I may be spared to reign over a loving, faithful and united people.

OUR OWN CHURCH AND COUNTRY.

NOVA SCOTIA.

(From the Colonial Standard.)

PICTOU.—Mr. John R. Herdman, who formerly had a baking establishment in this town, and who is acquainted with nearly every man, woman and child in it, paid a visit to Pictou last week. He is a son of Rev. A. W. Herdman, who was pastor of St. Andrew's Church, Pictou, for nearly 33 years, and who married or christened nearly half the people of the town. The present Kirk was built during Rev. Mr. Herdman's ministry, but previous to its erection, worship was held in the Kirk wooden building on the same site. In 1879 the pastor received a call to his native place, Perthshire, Scotland, and, although he is 70 years of age, he is nevertheless strong and hearty. Mr. J. R. Herdman was connected with the choir for many years; and of those who were associated with it during his time, he says there are only remaining Messrs. D. Sutherland and D. McDonald, who have stood by it all those years most faithfully.