

in an announcement by the Imperial authorities of their willingness to grant a substantial subvention towards the Atlantic portion of the scheme. This will, I trust, ensure the successful establishment of a line of steamers between the United Kingdom and Canada, which, in point of speed and equipment, shall fully meet all requirements.

My Government have also learned with satisfaction that it is the intention of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to appoint a Committee to consider a proposed Pacific Cable to connect Canada with Australasia. You will, I am sure, share the gratification with which my advisers welcome these announcements as affording further evidence of the desire of Her Majesty's Government to draw closer to each other and to the motherland the outlying portions of the Queen's Dominions. The papers on these subjects will also be submitted to you.

Your attention will be asked to measures intended to provide for the better arming of our militia and the strengthening of Canadian defences.

The growth of population in the North-west Territories as disclosed by the last enumeration calls for additional representation in Parliament. A Bill for this purpose will be laid before you.

I am happy to be able to inform you that the Commissioners appointed by Great Britain and the United States for the purpose of delimiting the boundary between Alaska and Canada have concluded their labours and have signed a joint report for presentation to their respective Governments. This report will be laid before Parliament in due time.

At the request of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies a delegate of my Government visited England last summer to confer with the Imperial authorities upon the question of Copyright. His report will be laid before you, and I doubt not that this subject will again receive your earnest attention.

You will also be asked to consider measures for the extension and development of our trade in agricultural products with the United Kingdom, and other markets.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

The accounts of the past and the estimates for the ensuing year will be laid before you. The latter have been framed with every regard for economy consistent with the requirements of the public service.

You will be pleased to learn that the revenues of the country show a gradual and continuous increase, and that the promised equilibrium between income and expenditure on Consolidated Fund account for the current year bids fair to be realized.

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate :*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

I commend these subjects and others which may come before you to your earnest consideration, relying upon your wisdom and prudence under the Divine guidance to discharge with dignity and effect the high trust committed to your care.

On motion of Mr. Foster, His Excellency's Speech was ordered to be taken into consideration on Tuesday next, the 7th instant.

Resolved.—That Select Standing Committees of this House for the present Session be appointed for the following purposes:—1. On Privileges and Elections.—2. On Expiring Laws.—3. On Railways, Canals and Telegraph Lines.—4. On Miscellaneous Private Bills.—5. On Standing Orders.—6. On Printing.—7. On Public Accounts.—8. On Banking and Commerce.—9. On Agriculture and Colonization,—which said Committees shall severally be empowered to examine and inquire into all such matters and things as may be referred to them by the House; and to report from time to time their observations and opinions thereon; with power to send for persons, papers and records.

On motion of Mr. Foster, it was Resolved, That when the House adjourns this day, it do stand adjourned until Tuesday next, the 7th instant, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.