

the conveyance of freight between the Western States and the interior of this continent and Europe, via Montreal, to be called the International Transportation Company.

Mr. HALL—From Mr. Boyd and others, for an Act to incorporate a company to open up a line of water communication by means of canals and water courses between the Georgian Bay and the Bay of Quinte.

Mr. IRVING—For an Act respecting the financial affairs of the Grand Trunk Railway Company, praying that an Act may pass relating to their financial affairs and empowering them to manage a system of superannuation and insurance beneficial to their employees.

Mr. ROSS (Durham East)—From Geo. Dartnell and others, for an Act to incorporate the London and Canada Bank.

Mr. PATERSON—From Messrs. Meyn, Woodgate and others for an Act to prohibit the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors in this Dominion.

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RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Right Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD asked if the leader of the Government had any statement to make with regard to any resignation or appointment that had been received or given. He had no doubt the House and the country would receive with great interest any explanations or communications the hon. gentleman might think it right to make.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said he had no objection to making the statement the right hon. gentleman desired, but he thought the hon. gentleman himself always desired that this statement should be made after the important stage of the business, the Address, had been disposed of.

Right Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD: Very well, but my hon. friend from Châteauguay (Hon. Mr. Holton) always insisted most pertinaciously that I was wrong. I am glad to find I was correct at the time.

Hon. Mr. HOLTON said the right hon. gentleman during his term of office established a long line of precedents, some of which he thought were vicious, but which were now binding upon the House.

Right Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD: Vice cannot be binding. (*Hear, hear, and laughter.*)

Hon. Mr. HOLTON said he was surprised that the right hon. gentleman should be one of the first to call in question one of his own precedents—(*Hear, hear, and laughter*)—which, as he had said, he had maintained very pertinaciously against his (Hon. Mr. Holton's) pertinacious objections. (*Hear, hear.*)

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THE ADDRESS

On the motion for the consideration of His Excellency's Speech at the opening of the session,

Mr. MOSS rose to move the Address in reply thereto, and was received with loud cheers. In opening, he said he was aware that special indulgence was always extended to the man who was charged with the duty of moving the resolutions before the House upon this occasion. He claimed that indulgence, not alone on account of his Parliamentary inexperience. He would endeavour also to establish another and a special claim upon the forbearance of the House, and that was that he would be as brief as possible.

Before referring to the subjects naturally suggested by the Speech from the Throne, he might be permitted to make an observation or two upon the circumstances under which the third Parliament of the Dominion of Canada was assembled. Its predecessor was unusually short lived. That was scarcely a fate which would have been predicted for it, even by those political soothsayers who pretended to discern the cloud when no bigger than a man's hand.

Elected at a time when, the question of Confederation having been settled and placed on a firm basis, parties might have been supposed to be well defined; elected, too, after a severe struggle at the polls, it might have been expected that it would continue to perform its functions to the end of its natural term of existence. The influences which gave its particular political complexion to that House had been already pretty well discussed upon the floor of Parliament, but whatever these influences might have been, certain it was, at any rate, that a large majority of the members were returned as supporters of the right hon. gentleman then at the head of the Government.

A strong government always enjoyed a great advantage in legislation, as well as in administration, because they were not subject to the temptation to consult selfish and individual interests which was apt to beset a Government dependent upon a small majority, and could fearlessly introduce measures from which a weak Government would shrink.

Accordingly, it was supposed by those who took an interest in public matters that it would fall to the lot of the late Government to deal with many subjects of the highest importance. Such subjects were urgently demanding that solution which wise legislation offered. They were questions closely connected with the material advancement and prosperity of this country. Some of them might tend to the consolidation of our great Confederation. The want of attention to some others might tend to interfere very seriously with the consummation of its integrity. The Parliament and the Government which could have met those questions and settled them would have earned the gratitude of the people of this country and a high place in its future history.

It was not the fortune, however, of the late Parliament to accomplish that task. It was, indeed, called upon to consider some questions, and, notably, one of great importance to our national well-being, and it might be that it would yet be remembered in history in connection with that question; but most of its work it was obliged to leave undone, and upon this House had descended the high responsibility and the great privilege of dealing with those matters. He thought he could say that great incentives were not wanting to the members of this House to exertions in the direction