

Among other measures, Bills will be presented to you respecting the Civil Service, the Acts relating to Banking and the examination of Masters and Mates of vessels navigating our inland waters,

I am glad to be able to inform you that the progress of the *Canadian Pacific* Railway has been quite unprecedented. Traffic can now be carried on the main line from *Thunder Bay* to within fifty miles of the crossing of the *South Saskatchewan*, a distance of over one thousand miles. It is confidently expected that the *Rocky Mountains* will be reached during the present year, and that within the same period substantial progress will be made on the *Lake Superior* Section of the Railway, and the track laid upon a large portion of the road now under contract in *British Columbia*.

I have also pleasure in stating that the traffic on the *Intercolonial Railway* is largely in excess of any former year, and that the balance in favour of the road shows a gratifying increase.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

The Accounts of the last fiscal year will be laid before you.

You will be pleased to learn that, notwithstanding the expenditure on Capital account amounted to more than seven millions of dollars, the surplus of the Consolidated Revenue, together with the proceeds of the sales of the lands in the *North-West* during last year, were more than sufficient to cover that expenditure, and that the net debt at the close of the year and the amount of interest paid thereon, were less than for the year previous.

The Estimates for the ensuing year will also be submitted. They have been prepared with all due economy consistent with the necessary development of the varied resources of the Dominion.

On the first of January, 1885, the large five per cent. loan will mature. A Bill will be submitted authorizing the issue of Debentures bearing a rate of interest not exceeding four per cent. for the redemption of this loan.

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

The subjects I have mentioned to you are of much importance, and I commend them to your consideration, with full confidence in your discretion and patriotism.

On motion of Sir *John A. Macdonald*, seconded by Sir *Leonard Tilley*,

*Ordered*, That the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General to both Houses of the Parliament of the Dominion of *Canada*, be taken into consideration on Monday next.

*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 Immigration and Colonization; which said Committees shall severally be empowered to examine and enquire 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.

Mr. Speaker communicated to the House the Report of the Librarian on the state of the Library of Parliament. (*Sessional Papers No. 15.*)

And then The House adjourned till Monday next.