

A Bill will also be provided for making uniform throughout the Dominion the laws relating to Bills of Lading.

During the recess my Government has carefully considered the subject of Ocean Steam Service, and you will be asked to provide subsidies for the improvement of the Atlantic Mail Service, and for the establishment, in concert with Her Majesty's Government, of a line of fast steamers between British Columbia and China and Japan. Your attention will also be invited to the best mode of developing our trade, and securing direct communication by steam with Australasia, the West Indies and South America.

A Bill will be submitted for your consideration for the prevention of certain offences in connection with Municipal Councils, and to give greater facilities for making enquiries as to such matters.

Several measures will also be presented to you for improving the law of procedure in criminal cases. Among these will be a Bill to permit the release on probation of persons convicted of first offences; a Bill authorizing regulations to be made for the practice in cases partaking of the nature of criminal proceedings, and a Bill to make the Speedy Trials Act applicable throughout Canada.

Bills relating to the inspection of timber and lumber, for the improvement of the Postal System, and for increasing the efficiency of the North-West Mounted Police, will also be submitted for your consideration.

The Royal Commissioners on Labor having concluded their enquiries, I hope to be able to lay before you at an early day their report, with the important evidence collected by them in various parts of Canada.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

The accounts for the past and the Estimates for the ensuing year will be laid before you. These Estimates have been prepared with a due regard to economy and the efficiency of the public service.

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate:*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

I now commend these several subjects and the others which may be brought before you to your earnest consideration, and I trust that the result of your deliberations may, under the Divine Blessing, tend to promote the well-being and prosperity of Canada.

His Excellency then retired, and the House of Commons withdrew.

#### BILL INTRODUCED.

Bill, "An Act relating to Railways." (Mr. Abbott).

#### THE ADDRESS.

##### MOTION.

THE SPEAKER reported His Excellency's Speech from the Throne, and the same was then read by the Clerk.

HON. MR. ABBOTT moved that the House do take into consideration the

Speech of His Excellency the Governor General, to-morrow.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senate adjourned at 4 p.m.

#### THE SENATE.

*Ottawa, Friday, 1st February, 1889.*

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at three o'clock.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

#### NEW SENATOR INTRODUCED.

HON. JOHN PRICE was introduced, and having taken and subscribed the Oath of Office, took his seat.

#### BILLS INTRODUCED.

Bill (A), "An Act to make further provision respecting enquiries concerning Public Matters." (Mr. Abbott).

Bill (B), "An Act for the better prevention of certain offences in connection with Municipal Councils." (Mr. Abbott).

Bill (C), "An Act relating to Bills of Lading." (Mr. Abbott).

HON. MR. POWER—I may be wrong, but it occurs to me that it has not been in practice heretofore in this country that the regular business of Parliament shall be proceeded with before disposing of the Address. I understand that these Bills form part of the actual legislation of the Session, and I think they should not be proceeded with before the Address is adopted.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I was rather in hopes that my hon. friend would find it an improvement on previous practice, that the earliest opportunity should be taken to place the business of the Session before the House. If it is a violation of the rules of the House I should be very sorry for having taken such a step, but the Bills being prepared, I thought it was the best course to have them before the House, printed and in circulation as soon as possible.