

line. The destruction of the Railway offices by fire involved a serious loss of maps, plans and papers, the possession of which would have made the report more complete.

The Canal and Harbor improvements are being vigorously prosecuted with a view to ensure adequate accommodation for the rapidly growing trade of the country.

The report of the Chief Engineer of the Department of Public Works, on the proposed Canal between the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Bay of Fundy, will be submitted for your consideration.

With the progress already made in the construction of the Intercolonial Railway, another year will be required to complete it. A report indicating its actual condition will be laid before Parliament, and a measure will be introduced to vest in the Department of Public Works the powers now exercised by the Board of Railway Commissioners.

The question of compensation due to the Dominion for the Fishery privileges conceded to the United States by the Treaty of Washington, has given rise to a renewal of negotiations tending to widen reciprocal trade relations with that country. At the instance of my Government, the Imperial authorities have given directions to the British Minister to discuss the whole subject with the Administration at Washington, and have associated with him for this purpose a Canadian Commissioner.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

The accounts of the last financial year will be laid before you, as well as a statement of the receipts and expenditure of the present year to the latest practical period.

I regret to state that the receipts of the current year will not be sufficient to meet the expenditure. It will therefore be necessary for you to consider the best means to be adopted for making good the anticipated deficiency.

The Estimates for the ensuing year will be laid before you. They have been prepared with as much regard to economy as is consistent with the efficiency of the Public Service.

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate ;*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

The combined efforts of the Dominion and Provincial Governments to promote Immigration have met with a reasonable measure of success, thus adding a considerable number of desirable persons from other countries to our industrial population.

Notwithstanding the commercial depression which, through exceptional causes, prevailed to some extent during the past year, it is satisfactory to know that the general prosperity was not thereby seriously affected: I do not doubt but that as the great natural resources of the Dominion become more widely appreciated, the results will be a healthy stimulus to the enterprise and energy of our people, and a still larger accession to our numbers.

I trust that your deliberations may be directed by wisdom and aided by Divine Providence.

On motion of the Honorable Mr. *Mackenzie*, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Dorion*, *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.

*Ordered*, That the Votes and Proceedings of the House be printed, being first perused by Mr. Speaker, and that he do appoint the printing thereof; and that no person but such as he shall appoint do presume to print the same.

*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