

tainty as to the respective rights of the Dominion and of the Provinces, and for preventing confusion in the titles thereto.

The Report of the Royal Commission on Labor, which was laid before you during the last Session, has been distributed throughout the country. I have reason to believe that the information which it contains will be found eminently useful in suggesting improvements in the administration of the laws which affect the working classes. Measures for the amendment of these laws, so far as they come within the jurisdiction of the Parliament of Canada, will be submitted for your consideration.

The early termination of the Acts of Incorporation of the principal banking institutions of the Dominion necessitates a review of our present system of Banking and an adjustment of the terms under which the Charters of these corporations should be renewed. Your attention will be drawn to this important subject.

Certain amendments to the Acts relating to the North-West Territories, calculated to facilitate the administration of affairs in that region, as also a Bill further to promote the efficiency of the North-West Mounted Police, will be submitted for your consideration.

Measures will be laid before you relating to Bills of Exchange and Promissory Notes, to improve the laws respecting patents of invention and discovery, to amend the Adulteration Act, and the law respecting the Inland Revenue, to amend also the Act respecting the Geological and Natural History Survey of Canada, and to provide for the better organisation of the National Printing Establishment.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

The Accounts for the past year will be laid before you. It will be found that the Estimates of Revenue have been realised, and that after having fully provided for the various public services of the country, a substantial surplus will remain. The Estimates for next year have been framed with a due regard to the requirements of the Public Service.

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate :*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

I commit these weighty matters, and all others which may come before you, to your earnest consideration, and I rely upon your wisdom and prudence to deal with them in the manner which, under Divine Providence, may prove most conducive to the happiness and prosperity of Canada.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved :

That the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General be taken into consideration to-morrow.

Motion agreed to.

SELECT STANDING COMMITTEES.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved :

That the 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 Colonisation; 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.

Motion agreed to.

DEBATES COMMITTEE.

Mr. BOWELL. With the consent of the House I ask the privilege of moving for the appointment of the Standing Committee on the "Hansard." I propose the same names as constituted the Committee last year, with the exception of Mr. Colby, whose place will be taken by Mr. White (Cardwell). The Committee will then stand :

Messrs. Béchard, Charlton, Davin, Desjardins, Ellis, Innes, Prior, Scriver, Somerville, Taylor, Tupper, Vanasse, Weldon (Albert) and White (Cardwell).

Motion agreed to.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to ; and at 3.45 p.m. the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, 17th January, 1890.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

The House proceeded to the consideration of His Excellency's Speech at the opening of the Session.

Mr. POPE. Out of compliment to the constituency that I have the honor to represent, the right hon. the First Minister has asked me to move the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. I presume it is not out of order for me to apologise for my unfitness to perform the task entrusted to me on this occasion. My early training as a practical farmer has not been of any assistance to me as a public speaker, more especially upon the floor of the House of Commons. The eloquence that we are accustomed to use in the management of our animals upon the farm, although occasionally strong and forcible, would, perhaps, not be appropriate upon an occasion of this kind, and, consequently, I will have to depend on the generosity and good nature of this honorable House in asking them to extend to me the courtesy and sympathy which a new and young member may be entitled to claim. We are all pleased to note by the first paragraph that His Excellency, following the example set him by many of his illustrious predecessors, was pleased during the vacation to take the opportunity of visiting the far western portion of our Dominion, as far as the shores of British Columbia. We all rejoice in the fact that during the entire extent of that journey he was received loyally by our citizens at every hand and upon every side. Whatever may be said of the people of Canada, whatever their shortcomings may be, there is one thing that can never be imputed to them, and that is disloyalty to our noble Queen. This feeling of loyalty and devotion has been and is still being strengthened by the high personal and noble character of the illustrious statesmen whom Her Gracious Majesty has chosen from time to time to represent Her as Governors-General of Canada. There are practical results which flow from these visits of royalty. First, they give our people in the far