

upon you the right of reducing to practice the system of Government, which it has called into existence, of consolidating its institutions, harmonizing its administrative details, and of making such legislative provisions as will secure to a constitution, in some respects novel, a full, fair, and unprejudiced trial.

With the design of effecting these objects, measures will be laid before you for the amendment and assimilation of the laws now existing in the several Provinces relating to Currency, Customs, Excise, and Revenue generally,—for the adoption of a uniform Postal System,—for the proper management and maintenance of the Public Works and Properties of the Dominion,—for the adoption of a well-considered scheme of Militia Organization and Defence, for the proper administration of Indian affairs,—for the introduction of uniform Laws respecting Patents of Invention and Discovery,—the naturalization of Aliens,—and the assimilation of the Criminal Law, and the Laws relating to Bankruptcy and Insolvency.

A measure will also be submitted to you, for the performance of the duty imposed upon *Canada*, under the terms of the Union Act, of immediately constructing the Inter-colonial Railway.

This great work will add a practical and physical connection to the legislative bond which now unites the Provinces comprising the Dominion, and the liberality with which the guarantee for the cost of its construction was given by the Imperial Parliament is a new proof of the hearty interest felt by the British people in your prosperity.

Your consideration will also be invited to the important subject of Western Territorial extension, and your attention will be called to the best means for the protection and development of our Fisheries and Marine Interests.

You will also be asked to consider measures defining the privileges of Parliament and for the establishing of uniform laws relating to Elections, and the trial of Controverted Elections.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons;

The circumstances under which the Act of Union came into operation, rendered it impossible to obtain the assent of the Legislature to the expenditure necessary for carrying on the ordinary business of the Government.

The expenditure since the first of July has therefore been incurred on the responsibility of Ministers of the Crown.

The details of that expenditure will be laid before you, and submitted for your sanction.

I have directed that the Estimates for the current and succeeding Financial Year shall be laid before you. You will find that they have been framed with all the attention to economy which is compatible with the maintenance of efficiency in the different Branches of the Public Service.

Honorable Gentlemen and Gentlemen;

The general organization and efficiency of the Volunteers and Militia have been greatly improved within the last year, and the whole Volunteer Force of *Ontario* and *Quebec* is already, by the liberality of the Imperial Government, armed with the Breech-loading Rifle.

I am happy to be able to congratulate you on the abundant harvest with which it has pleased Providence to bless you, and on the general prosperity of the Dominion.

Your new nationality enters on its course backed by the moral support, the material aid, and the most ardent good wishes of the Mother Country. Within your own borders peace, security and prosperity prevail, and I fervently pray that your aspirations may be directed to such high and patriotic objects, and that you may be endowed with such a spirit of moderation and wisdom as will cause you to render the great work of Union which has been achieved, a blessing to yourselves and your posterity, and a fresh starting point in the moral, political and material advancement of the people of *Canada*.

On motion of the Honorable Sir *John A. Macdonald*, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Cartier*,

*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 to-morrow.