

ing it necessary for my Government in pursuance of its declared policy to introduce legislation in regard to this subject. The papers will be laid before you.

I am happy to inform you that the representations of my Government and the suggestions of the Ottawa Conference respecting steamship communication have resulted in an announcement by the Imperial authorities of their willingness to grant a substantial subvention towards the Atlantic portion of the scheme. This will, I trust, ensure the successful establishment of a line of steamers between the United Kingdom and Canada, which, in point of speed and equipment, shall fully meet all requirements.

My Government have also learned with satisfaction that it is the intention of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to appoint a Committee to consider a proposed Pacific Cable to connect Canada with Australasia. You will, I am sure, share the gratification with which my advisers welcome these announcements as affording further evidence of the desire of Her Majesty's Government to draw closer to each other and to the motherland the outlying portions of the Queen's Dominions. The papers on these subjects will also be submitted to you.

Your attention will be asked to measures intended to provide for the better arming of our militia and the strengthening of Canadian defences.

The growth of population in the North-west Territories as disclosed by the last enumeration calls for additional representation in Parliament. A Bill for this purpose will be laid before you.

I am happy to be able to inform you that the Commissioners appointed by Great Britain and the United States for the purpose of delimiting the boundary between Alaska and Canada have concluded their labours and have signed a joint report for presentation to their respective Governments. This report will be laid before Parliament in due time.

At the request of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies a delegate of my Government visited England last summer to confer with the Imperial authorities upon the question of Copyright. His report will be laid before you, and I doubt not that this subject will again receive your earnest attention.

You will also be asked to consider measures for the extension and development of our trade in agricultural products with the United Kingdom, and other markets.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons :

The accounts of the past and the estimates for the ensuing year will be laid before you. The latter have been framed with every regard for economy consistent with the requirements of the public service.

You will be pleased to learn that the revenues of the country show a gradual and continuous increase, and that the promised equilibrium between income and expenditure on Consolidated Fund account for the current year bids fair to be realized.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate :

Gentlemen of the House of Commons :

I commend these subjects and others which may come before you to your earnest consideration, re-

lying upon your wisdom and prudence under the Divine guidance to discharge with dignity and effect the high trust committed to your care.

His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to retire, and the House of Commons withdrew.

BILL INTRODUCED.

Bill "An Act relating to Railways."—
(Sir Mackenzie Bowell.)

THE ADDRESS.

MOTION.

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

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL moved that the Senate do take into consideration the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General, on Wednesday next, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senate then adjourned.

THE SENATE.

Ottawa, Tuesday, January 7th, 1896.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at eight o'clock.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

NEW SENATORS.

The following Senators were introduced, and having taken the oath of office and signed the roll, took their places :

Hon. Sir Wm. Hales Hingston.

Hon. Josiah Wood.

Hon. James O'Brien.

Hon. Joseph O. Villeneuve.

Hon. William Owens.

THE MINISTERIAL CRISIS.

Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I have an important statement to make to the House. Since the opening of Parliament seven of the ministers have tendered their