

April 14, 1871

“In Her Majesty’s name, His Excellency the Governor General thanks her loyal subjects, accepts their benevolence, and assents to this Bill.”

After which His Excellency was pleased to make the following Speech to both Houses:—

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate, Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*—

In releasing you from further attendance in Parliament, I beg leave to express my warm acknowledgements for the diligence with which you have applied yourselves to the discharge of your public duties.

The Session has been brief, but work of importance has been accomplished, and I may congratulate you on the prospect which is foreshadowed, that in the future, the Sessions of the Parliament of the Dominion will not make the inconvenient demands on the time of the Members which they have done in the past.

The arrival in *Ottawa* of the Representatives elected to serve for the Province of *Manitoba*, and their taking their seats in Parliament, mark signally the completion of the Union of that Province with the Dominion.

The Criminal, Militia, and other Statute Laws, not in their nature inapplicable to *Manitoba*, have been extended to that Province.

The regulations for the Survey and granting of lands in *Manitoba* were modelled on a system tested by experience, and will, by their liberality, offer a free home to all, without restriction, who desire to settle in the county, and avail themselves of the advantages held out to them.

It shall be one of my earliest cares during the recess to take steps to negotiate, on equitable principles, with the Indian tribes in *Manitoba*, and the North West Territory, in order to quiet their titles to lands.

The Session which we are now closing has witnessed the consummation of the Union of *Manitoba*, and the adoption of the necessary initial measures to facilitate and ensure the admission of *British Columbia* into the Dominion.

The Addresses passed by the Senate and House of Commons have been sent forward to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, for submission to Her Most Gracious Majesty, and I trust Parliament will, at its next Session, have the satisfaction of viewing,

as an accomplished fact, the Union of all Her Majesty’s Continental Possessions in *North America*, an object, the attainment of which, even the most sanguine advocates of Confederation did not anticipate for many years to come.

I cherish the expectation that the result of the Census will demonstrate that the several Provinces of the Dominion have made a rapid advance in population, and in all the elements of material prosperity during the last decade.

The Fisheries’ Question is still under the consideration of the Joint High Commission at *Washington*, and I am confident that every effort is being made to secure such a result as will meet the reasonable expectations of the *Canadian* people, and tend to the preservation of lasting amity, and good feeling, between *Great Britain* and the *United States*.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

I tender you my thanks for the readiness with which you have granted the Supplies for the present year.

*Honourable Gentlemen, and Gentlemen:*

We have abundant cause for rejoicing at the present moment in the favourable state of the revenue, and the thriving condition of many branches of the national industry. I gratefully acknowledge the loyalty of the people, and the spirit of order and respect for the law, which prevail in every part of the Country, and I pray with all humility that these blessings may be of long continuance, and that He, from whom all good proceeds, may vouchsafe to look with favour on this Dominion.

Then the Honourable Speaker of the Senate said:—

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate, Gentlemen of the House of Commons,*

It is His Excellency the Governor General’s will and pleasure that this Parliament be prorogued until Thursday, the Twenty-fifth day of May, next, to be then here holden; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued until Thursday, the Twenty-fifth day of May next.