

It affords us great satisfaction to be informed that the Surveys of the Pacific Railway have been pressed to completion during the past season; that a complete instrumental survey of the route, by the valleys of the North Thompson and Lower Fraser Rivers, has been made, with a view to ascertain definitely whether that route presents more favorable features than the routes already surveyed to Dean Inlet and Bute Inlet respectively; and that it is believed that the additional information now obtained will enable Your Excellency's Government to determine which route is the most advantageous from Tête Jaune Cache to the sea. We thank Your Excellency for the promise that full information will be laid before us at an early day of the season's work in this and other directions.

We accept with thankfulness Your Excellency's congratulation on the abundant harvest reaped in all quarters of the Dominion; and we rejoice with Your Excellency, that under this and other influences there has been some improvement in the Revenue returns, thus indicating we also trust, that the commercial depression that has so long afflicted Canada, in common with other countries, is passing away.

Your Excellency having been pleased to inform us that your attention has been called to some imperfections in the existing system of auditing the Public Accounts, and that a measure providing for their more thorough and effective supervision will be submitted for our consideration, we beg leave to say that we shall not fail carefully to consider such measure.

We agree with Your Excellency in thinking that the prospect of obtaining, at an early day, greater facilities for reaching the North Western Territories and the Province of Manitoba, is sure to attract a larger number of settlers every year; and that, as much of the prosperity of the Dominion depends on the rapid settlement of the fertile lands in those Territories, it is desirable and necessary to facilitate such settlement as much as possible. We beg leave to assure Your Excellency that our most earnest and careful attention will be given to the measures which Your Excellency has been pleased to inform us will, in order to effect this, be submitted for our con-

*Hon. Mr. Thibeaudeau.*

sideration concerning the registration of titles, the enactment of Homestead Law, and the promotion of Railway enterprise in districts not touched by the Canada Pacific Railway.

We shall also carefully consider the measure for better securing the independence of Parliament, to which Your Excellency has been pleased to inform us that our attention will be called.

We thank Your Excellency for drawing our attention to the fact that experience has shown that certain changes may advantageously be made in the departmental arrangements existing at present. The bill for accomplishing this purpose without increasing the expenditure, or the number of departments, which Your Excellency has been pleased to say will be submitted to us, will not fail to receive our most attentive consideration.

We concur with Your Excellency in the opinion that it is very desirable that there should be uniform legislation in all the Provinces respecting the traffic in spirituous liquors. Hitherto that trade has been regulated by Provincial laws, or laws existing before the Confederation of the Provinces, although there has been lately a conflict of authority as to the jurisdiction of the local authorities. The bill making the necessary provision which Your Excellency has been pleased to say will be submitted for our consideration, will meet with careful attention from us.

And Your Excellency may depend upon the careful attention and consideration of this House being given to the various measures found necessary for the amendment of existing laws which Your Excellency is pleased to intimate will also be submitted for our approval.

He said:—In rising for the purpose of moving an humble address to His Excellency in answer to the Speech from the Throne, I must first crave the indulgence of my honorable colleagues for my inexperience, considering the trying position in which I am placed in this Parliamentary life which is new to me. It is customary to tender the great honor of moving the address to the last appointed member of this House, and in this instance, while appreciating fully the honor, I cannot refrain from mentioning that it becomes a pleasure, as it gives me an early opportunity of expressing my deep and sincere re-