

You will, I trust, concur with me in thinking that the long contemplated improvement and extension of our system of Canals ought to be vigorously prosecuted. The rapid increase in the trade of *Canada*, and the importance of competing for, and accommodating the commerce of the great West, render it necessary that the means of transport by water should be cheapened and facilitated, I have to request your serious consideration of this subject, and in connection with it, the expediency of providing a direct water communication between the Gulf of *St. Lawrence* and the Bay of *Fundy*.

The decennial Census having been taken last year, the duty of re-adjusting the representation in Parliament, of the four Provinces originally constituting the Dominion, devolves upon you now, according to the terms of the Union Act. A measure for the purpose will accordingly be submitted for your consideration.

Among other measures, Bills will be presented to you relating to the Judges of Superior Courts—to the regulation and management of the Public Lands and Mines of the Dominion in *Manitoba* and the North West Territories, and for the amendment of the laws relating to the Public Health.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

The accounts of the past year will at once be laid before you, and likewise a statement of the Receipts and Expenditure of the current year, up to the close of the last month.

It is gratifying to me to be able to announce to you that the revenue for the past, as well as that for the current year, will be considerably in excess of what was estimated, and that consequently there is no reason to apprehend embarrassment from the immediate commencement of the contemplated public improvements.

The Estimates for the ensuing year will be submitted to you, and I trust that you will be of opinion that the supplies which my Government will ask you to vote for the service of Her Majesty, can be granted without inconvenience to Her Canadian subjects

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate:*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

I have all the more satisfaction in recurring to your counsel, and assistance at this period, inasmuch as I may congratulate you on the general prosperity of the country, and the fortunate issue of the steps taken to unite and consolidate the vast territories which now form the Dominion.

I feel assured that you will continue to devote the same assiduity as in the past to the augmented labors, which the exigencies of more numerous constituencies and a wider sphere of operations demand at your hands; and I earnestly pray that your efforts in the path of duty may be so happily guided as to maintain peace and justice in all the borders of the land, and ensure the happiness and lasting welfare of all classes of its inhabitants.

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

PRAYERS.

The Honorable Mr. *Campbell* presented to the House a Bill intituled "An Act relating to Railways."

The said Bill was read for the first time.

The Honorable the Speaker reported His Excellency's Speech from the Throne and the same was then read by the Clerk—

On motion of the Honorable Mr. *Campbell*, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Hamilton* (Kingston), it was

Ordered, That the House do take into consideration the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General to-morrow.