

## ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS OF OFFICE.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD introduced Bill (No. 1) respecting the Administration of Oaths of Office.

Bill read the first time.

## SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

Mr. SPEAKER. I have the honor to inform this House that when the House attended His Excellency the Governor-General this day in the Senate Chamber, His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of Parliament, and, to prevent mistakes, I have obtained a copy of the Speech, which is as follows:—

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

In fulfilment of the important trust committed to me by Her Majesty, I have recourse for the first time to your advice and assistance. It is a source of the deepest personal satisfaction to me, that I should have been called by Her Majesty to an office in which, as Her Representative I am enabled to take a part in the public affairs of the Dominion, and to associate myself with you in the performance of the honorable duties which you are about to approach.

I rejoice to learn that although the last harvest has been less productive than its predecessors, and although there are indications that the rapid expansion of your commerce has, to some extent, been followed by over-trading, the general condition of the Dominion is such as to justify me in congratulating you upon its prosperity.

The marked success attained by Canada at the International Fishery Exhibition in London, must be very gratifying to you, and has, I doubt not, been of great service in showing to the world the wealth of our Fisheries and the extent of our marine industries and resources.

The Commissioners appointed by my predecessor for the purpose of consolidating the Statutes affecting the Dominion, have pursued their task with diligence, and I am enabled to lay before you for examination about sixty chapters of the proposed consolidation. The remainder of the work will be prepared, and the whole of it revised during the present year, so that the final report will be ready at your next Session for your approval.

The number of immigrants to Canada during the past season has, I am glad to say, been greater than in any previous year, and is a proof that the better Canada is known the more it is valued by those seeking a home in the new world.

Arrangements are in progress to diminish the cost of inland transport, and I have reason to believe that the result will be a steady increase of valuable settlers, in the future.

During the recess, negotiations were resumed with British Columbia in regard to several matters upon which differences had for some time existed between the two Governments. One of my Ministers visited the Province last summer on a special mission with a view to the adjustment of all questions in controversy, and his efforts have happily been successful. Should your sanction be given to the arrangements then made, all occasions of dispute will have been removed, and the most cordial relations established between the Dominion and Provincial Governments. The papers will be laid before you and your consideration invited to measures enabling me to give effect to the agreement.

The rapid increase of population in the North-West renders some amendments in the North-West Territories Act expedient, and your attention will be called to this important matter.

The progress of the Indians in Manitoba and the North-West during last year has been, on the whole, satisfactory. The Bands included in the several Indian Treaties have for the most part betaken themselves to their reserves. A Bill for the further promotion of their interests will be submitted to you, as well as a measure applicable to the whole Dominion, for the purpose of encouraging the more advanced Indian communities to assume the responsibilities of self-government.

Mr. SPEAKER.

The Bill laid before you last Session for the representation of the people in Parliament and the assimilation of the electoral franchises existing in the several Provinces, has now been before the country for a year. The measure will be re-introduced and I commend it to your attention.

I would also urge upon you the expediency of providing for the regulation of factory labour and the protection of the workingman and his family. The measure submitted last Session, with some amendments, will be laid before you.

The rapid progress of the Canadian Pacific Railway has been maintained throughout the past year. Of the 2,833 miles of the main line between Pembroke and Port Moody, 1,738 miles are now constructed, rendering practicable the completion of that great work within the next two years. Although the time within which the Railway Company is bound to finish the road will not expire until 1891, my Government has thought it of the greatest importance for the settlement of the North-West and the development of our trade, that its completion from sea to sea should be hastened and the Company enabled to open the line throughout by the spring of 1886. With this view, and in order to aid the Company in procuring sufficient capital for the purpose by the disposal of its unsold shares, the Government agreed to receive a deposit of money and securities sufficient to pay a minimum three per cent. dividend for ten years on sixty-five millions of the stock. That arrangement was made on the belief that it would give steadiness and increased value to the shares on the market. A combination of unfavorable circumstances has prevented the fulfilment of these expectations, and the Company has not been able to obtain the required capital by a sale of its stock. The best means of preventing any delay in the great object of the early completion of the railway, demands your earnest consideration.

I am pleased to be able to state that the operation of that portion of the railway already opened, affords the most gratifying evidence of its soundness as a commercial enterprise and of its great value to Canada.

The large increase of the volume of traffic on the Intercolonial Railway over that of any previous year, without involving any burden upon the country, is a satisfactory proof of the continued development of trade between the eastern and western portions of the Dominion.

A provisional arrangement made with the Government of Nova Scotia for the retention of the Pictou Branch and the acquisition of the Eastern Extension Railway to the Strait of Canso, will be submitted for your approval.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

The accounts for the past year will be laid before you. You will find that the expenditure has been considerably less and the receipts larger than the estimates, the surplus exceeding that of any previous year. The revenue of the first half of the current year, notwithstanding the large importations of last season, have been such that we may reasonably expect that the estimates for the year will be fairly maintained.

The estimates for the ensuing year will also be submitted to you. They will, I trust, be found to have been prepared with due regard to economy.

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

I feel assured that you will devote yourselves with earnestness and assiduity to the consideration of the subjects I have mentioned, and to all matters affecting the public interests that may be brought before you.

On motion of Sir John A. Macdonald, His Excellency's Speech was ordered to be taken into consideration, to-morrow.

## SELECT STANDING COMMITTEES.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved:

That Select Standing Committees of the House for the present Session be appointed for the following purposes:—1. On Privileges and Elec-