

speech which His Excellency has been pleased to make to both Houses of Parliament, namely :—

To His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir Frederick Temple, Earl of Dufferin, Viscount and Baron Clandeboye of Clandeboye, in the County Down, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom, Baron Dufferin and Clandeboye of Ballyleidy and Killeleagh, in the County Down, in the Peerage of Ireland, and a Baronet, Knight of the Most Illustrious Order of St. Patrick and Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Governor General of Canada, and Vice Admiral of the same.

*May it Please Your Excellency :—*

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Senate of Canada, in Parliament assembled, respectfully thank Your Excellency for your gracious speech at the opening of this session.

It is with much pleasure that we find Parliament again called together by Your Excellency to attend to the business of the country.

We are glad to know that since we last assembled it has been Your Excellency's happiness to visit the Mother Country, and to have had the opportunity while there of calling public attention to the remarkable progress of the Dominion, and of giving expression to the feelings of attachment to the person of Her Majesty and the interests of the Empire which animate the Canadian people.

We agree with Your Excellency that the great depression which has prevailed throughout neighbouring countries for several years, and which has more recently been felt in the Old World, causing a general stagnation of business, has extended to Canada, and has seriously affected our trade; but at the same time, we have reason to be grateful for an abundant harvest; and, while deeply regretting, with Your Excellency, the suffering which exists among certain classes and in particular localities, we concur with Your Excellency in believing, nevertheless, that the great bulk of our people continue to enjoy a condition of material prosperity.

We reciprocate with pleasure Your Excellency's congratulations on the fact that the great railway undertaking, connecting the former Province of Canada with the Maritime Provinces, provided for by the Act of 1867, is approaching completion; and we thank Your Excellency for the information that,

early in the coming summer, the small portion of the Intercolonial line not already in operation will be opened, when the connection with other systems of railway will be formed so as to enable passengers and traffic to pass over continuous lines of railway from Halifax or St. John to the extreme Western railways of Ontario.

We agree with Your Excellency in thinking that the opening of the Prince Edward Island Railway during the past year marks an epoch in the history of that Island, and ~~cannot~~ but exert a beneficial influence on the people, and add to their material prosperity.

We participate in the regret felt by Your Excellency in having to state that although every effort has been made to obtain an early settlement of the claims of Canada for compensation for the use of her Fisheries by the United States, as provided by the Treaty of Washington, and although Her Majesty's Government in the early part of last summer, at the instance of Your Excellency's advisers, appointed the British Commissioner, the United States have not yet appointed a Commissioner, and that consequently no progress has been made.

We thank Your Excellency for informing us that you have given effect to the Supreme and Exchequer Court Act of last Session by issuing the proclamations, and by appointing the Judges and officers of the Court.

We shall await with interest the Bill to simplify and amend the law relating to Common Carriers, which Your Excellency is pleased to inform us will be submitted for our consideration, as well as the bill which we learn from Your Excellency will be brought before us containing provisions for affording greater security to policy holders in Life Assurance Companies.

The want of reliable and systematised information relating to the several classes of crime and the importance of collecting and classifying criminal statistics having engaged Your Excellency's attention, we are glad to hear from Your Excellency, that a bill will be introduced to provide for what is most essential in this direction.

We are grateful to Your Excellency for the information that Parliament will be asked to make provision for the commencement of the work of consolidating the Statute Law.

It gives us pleasure to learn from Your Excellency that the Acts relating to the