

of the main line which extends from *English River* to *Keewatin* is now being placed under contract, and will be energetically pushed to completion in order to secure, as rapidly as is possible, the connection between *Lake Superior* and the great *North-West*.

A Bill for the amendment and consolidation of the Acts relating to Stamps shall be submitted for your consideration, as well as a measure amending the Act relating to Weights and Measures.

The decennial census must be taken in 1881. I think it expedient that a measure for the purpose should be passed during the present Session in order to give ample time for the preparation of all the preliminary arrangements, and to ensure the census being taken as accurately and inexpensively as possible. In connection with this subject it may be well to consider the propriety of providing some means for the collection and collation of vital, criminal and general statistics.

A Bill will be laid before you for the re-arrangement of some of the Departments of the Government, and also measures relating to the survey and management of the Dominion Lands, to the Mounted Police, and to the Post Office Department; and also for the amendment, in some particulars, of the laws relating to Indians.

A measure will also be submitted to you for the vesting in Her Majesty, for the use of the Dominion, of certain ordnance and admiralty lands in the Provinces of *Nova Scotia* and *New Brunswick*.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

The Estimates for the ensuing year will be laid before you at an early day. They have been prepared with as much regard to economy as is compatible with the efficiency of the public service.

I regret that the receipts into the Treasury from ordinary sources continue to be inadequate to meet the charges against the Consolidated Revenue. You will, I doubt not, agree with me in the opinion that it is not desirable that our finances should longer remain in this condition. By the application of the strictest economy to the public expenditure, and by the re-adjustment of the tariff with the view of increasing the revenue, and, at the same time, of developing and encouraging the various industries of *Canada*, you will, I trust, be enabled to restore the equilibrium between revenue and expenditure, and to aid in removing the commercial and financial depression which unhappily continues to exist. I have directed that the Public Accounts of the past financial year shall be laid before you.

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate :*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

Parliament has recognized the importance of providing for the safe deposit of the surplus earnings of the people by arranging for their being placed with the Government at a fair rate of interest. It may be well for you to consider how far it is practicable to give a like security and encouragement to persons who may desire, by an insurance upon their lives, to make provision for those dependent upon them.

Your best attention will, I doubt not, be given to the important subjects I have alluded to, and to the general interests of the country.

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

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.