

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

OTTAWA, Jan. 17.—This afternoon, at 3 o'clock, his Excellency Lord Lansdowne, Governor-General, came down in state to the Senate Chambers, and opened the second session of the fifth Parliament of Canada with the following speech from the throne:

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate, Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

In the fulfillment 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 part in the public affairs of the Dominion and 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 so as to justify me in congratulating you on its prosperity. The marked success attained by Canada at the International Fishery Exhibition in London must be very gratifying to you, and has been, I doubt not, 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 purposes 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 and for your approval. The number of emigrants to Canada during the past season was, I am happy to say, greater than in any previous year, 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 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 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 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. 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 those important matters. The progress of the Indians in Manitoba and the North West during the past year has been on the whole satisfactory. The lands included in several Indian Treaties have for the most part been taken themselves to their reserves. A bill for the further promotion of their interests will be submitted to you as well as measures applicable to the whole Dominion for the purpose of encouraging the more advanced Indian communities to assume responsibilities of self government. The bill laid before you last session for the representation of the people in Parliament and the assimilation of Electoral Franchise existing in the several Provinces has now been before the country for the 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 labor and the protection of the working man 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 are now constructed, and renders practicable the completion of the great work within the next two years, although the time within which the Railway Company were 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 unvold shares, the Government agreed to receive a deposit of money and securities sufficient to pay a minimum of 3

per cent. dividend for ten years on \$65,000,000 of the stock. The arrangement was made on the belief that it would give steadiness and increased value to the shares on the market. A consideration of unfavorable circumstances has prevented the fulfillment 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 railway already opened affords 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 portion of the Dominion. Provisional arrangements made with the Government of Nova Scotia for the retention of the Picton 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:

Accounts for the past year will be laid before you. You will find that the expenditure will be 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 the last season, have been such that we may reasonably expect that the estimates for the year will be fairly maintained. 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.

Honorable 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 public interests that may be brought before you.

THE REPLY TO THE ADDRESS.

From the News.

OTTAWA, Jan. 18.—The reply to the address was moved by McMaster, of Glengarry, in an excellent worded speech, which, however, was nothing but an elaborate avoidance of the most important questions. He referred to the points in the address, and sympathized with British Columbia as not having had her dues. He congratulated the International railway on having ceased to be a burden on the people, and he pointed with pride to Sir Charles Tupper's action in having the condemned cargoes of cattle re-examined. He exulted over the immigration returns, which showed that during 1878 only 30,000 immigrants came into the country, to 47,000 in 1881, 112,000 in 1882, and 133,000 in 1883. Of the latter, the unprecedented number of 34,000 were from the United States, and 11,000 of them were returned Canadians. He then dwelt on the export trade in live stock, and said that last year 56,000 cattle and 114,000 sheep were sent out of the country. The receipts last year were in excess of the estimates, while the expenditure was less than the estimates. This left in round numbers a surplus of 7,000,000, not including the 1,000,000 derived from the sale of North-Western lands. This was THE LARGEST SURPLUS SINCE CONFEDERATION, and though it was largely gained from imports, and importation has been over done, still it was an easy job to dispose of a surplus. Notwithstanding over-importation and over-production it had been a reasonably prosperous year. After referring to the necessity of introducing a Factory Act and a law assimilating the election law in all the provinces, he spoke of the necessity of placing the Indians on reservations, and of giving them some sort of self government. His absurd reference to this subject should have

RAISED A LAUGH.

for nothing more ridiculous could be imagined than what he called "Home rule for the Indians." It is just as feasible as home rule for the pauper asylums. On the Canada Pacific the speaker dwelt long and lovingly, hanging with suspicious weight on the unprecedented rapid construction of the work, and the necessity of the people and Government stepping in to assist the syndicate with whatever is necessary in the way of aids and guarantees. He spoke of the Government three per cent. guarantee without explaining it, and stated that it had failed to meet the wants of the syndicate. The Government members looked exceedingly ill at ease when McMaster expiated upon the necessity of the Government doing something more to help the Canada Pacific railway out of the hole.

Belleau, of Levis, seconded the reply in French. The absurdity of two official languages is impressed on the English hearers while listening to harangues such as that of the Quebec member. But a small portion of the members could understand what the speaker was driving at, but nearly all of them could have understood him as well, if he had spoken in English.

MR. BLAKE'S SPEECH

in reply was a powerful one, and in a popu-

lar vein. He patted Lansdowne's head approvingly, and complimented the Home Government on the style of the Governors they are sending out. This was to indicate the loyalty of the Grit party, and Mr. Blake did it very nicely. He read a Ministerial announcement of Sir John's intention to see that a settlement was arrived at with British Columbia, coupled with the statement that Sir John considered it his duty to Victoria to see that such a settlement be effected. Mr. Blake congratulated Sir John on his careless grace with which he paid his debt with other people's money, and passed on to the immigration returns. He did not believe the figures brought forward by the Government were anything but conjecture, but the facts are so apparent that it was not even alleged that the 150,000 emigrants promised had come in, while the member for Glengarry had discreetly omitted all reference to the number of emigrants to the North West. No reference had been made to the disappointment, discontent and agitation in Manitoba and the territories, yet the Ministry could not attempt to conceal the fact that such existed, for their friend, the first Minister of Manitoba, had but a few days ago confessed in public that affairs there are virging upon a crisis. To him the reference to the Government guarantee and the necessities of the syndicate, was a most alarming announcement. He had been at a loss to know how the position of the syndicate could be improved, or the value of its stock enhanced by a guarantee, if a deposit had to be made with the government of dollar for dollar to the amount of that guarantee. The guarantee was given in defiance of law, and we have nothing before us to show what the securities were. But now it is even worse, and it appears that the syndicate is to get it without giving security. The electors had been told that the giving of the contract to the syndicate had lifted the burden from the shoulders of the Canadian people, but we find that burden upon our backs still.

Mr. Blake said he had warned the Government that the success of the road could not be assured by immense subsidies, but that prudent management must also be added. Instead of such management, we are told that the road has been pushed with unprecedented rapidity. This rapidity means an extra and unnecessary outlay. Speed means money. It means the extension of an unprofitable period, during which the company will have to operate it without a local trade. It is doing the country no good, as it causes the settlements to be sparse and widely scattered. The boom has caused speculation and ruin. More than this the capital of the syndicate has been largely devoted to other enterprises than the Canada Pacific railway. They have invested in the St. Lawrence and Ottawa, the Canada Central, the Credit Valley, Ontario & Quebec, the Toronto, Grey & Bruce, and the London Junction, and now they call for help to build the line that they engaged to build and were subsidized to build. It was to be regretted that the syndicate had excited the rivalry of another great company by building an opposition line to the Grand Trunk, but as they had done this they had no right to call for sympathy where the rival companies manipulated against them. Moreover, while the syndicate is asking for help, and the government proposes to relieve them, there is no proposition to relieve the people of the obnoxious clauses which are more oppressive to the country than profitable to the corporation. Turning to the state of the country, he expressed his surprise that the member of Glengarry had dwelt so little on the subject. He got on the ice as late as possible, and got off it as quickly as he could. On previous occasions this topic had been lovingly dwelt upon by those speaking in reply to the address, but now it was indeed changed. The country had a reasonably good harvest, with few failures in the crop, and to account for the depression the Government must be blamed for extravagant expenditure, and extravagant, unjust and unequal collection. They were to blame, too, for their encouragement of overproduction, of speculation, of overtrading. Last year the Finance Minister, like a reckless pilot, told his crew to put on all sail, and they did. How many of them had since taken in sail, or had it taken in for them. The bankruptcies had trebled, and in his own city of Toronto he had not seen so much distress for years. In Montreal it appeared as bad. Even in London, we are told by the Postmaster General's own organ, that they are establishing a soup kitchen. For this trouble the Government's fiscal policy is largely to blame, but a portion of it must be charged to assisted emigration. While the Government has been assisting an undesirable class the ratio of the increase of emigration for the past four years is less than that of the previous four years. Particularly is this so in the urban communities. Notwithstanding the complaints of the workmen and artisans, who are finding that

PROTECTION DOES NOT PROTECT LABOR. Sir Hector Langevin promises to return his exile compatriots to Canada to further increase the total of unemployed labor. He briefly expressed his objections to the bill for the assimilation of the provincial franchise, and hoped that the objectionable and unheard of clauses would be eliminated. He was sorry to find that there was reference in the

speech to the proposed abrogation of the fishery clauses of the Washington treaty, as important interests would suffer if any interval was allowed to occur or any lapse be permitted. It was certainly the duty of the Government to see that there is no gap and to take advantage of the opportunity to press negotiations for better trade relations with the United States. He next taunted Sir John with the decision in the appealed case, a taunt which he had some reason to regret when Sir John shifted the responsibility of the question home to the Mackenzie Government.

Mr. Blake proceeded to read Sir John's opinion on the constitutionality of the Dominion Government, assuming the licensing power. With biting sarcasm he referred to the Premier's great reputation as a constitutional lawyer, and then twitted him with the decision in the Fledge and Russell cases. He supposed that Sir John would endeavor to hold the power he had seized on another pretense, as he had always endeavored to centralize power. He complimented Sir John on the happy event which had relieved the Premier of the necessity of choosing between Carleton and Lennox, and though another man of other views now sits for Lennox, no doubt Sir John and all the rest of them sincerely mourned the temporary triumph of vice over virtue.

SIR JOHN'S REPLY.

Sir John complimented Mr. Blake on his new style of addressing the House. "The happy style," Sir John said, "was quite a new departure. Mr. Blake, in fact, had broken out in a fresh place. Formerly Mr. Blake had posed as a great and stern statesman, a strict economist, and all that sort of thing. He was puzzled at first to account for Mr. Blake's happy vein, but as he progressed he found out the reason. The smile grew as he alluded to the rumor that the syndicate might fail. It broadened as he spoke of the hard times. It deepened and widened as Mr. Blake spoke of agitation and disaffection in the North-West. And he finally exulted when he spoke of the establishment of soup kitchens. So it seemed that the leader of the Opposition gloried in all the modifications of evil in store for Canada. This accounted for Mr. Blake's happy departure, and he regretted that the only man who had ever been in the House who could answer Mr. Blake in his own style, was in the House no longer. He was, indeed, sorry for Mr. Bunster's absence, as he (Sir John) had no time to prepare impromptu sarcasms, and Mr. Blake had, as to his paying his debt to Victoria, B. C., with the people's money, he thought that the whole country and the whole

PEOPLE OWED VICTORIA A DEBT

for electing him to the head of the Government. In reply to Mr. Blake's charge, that the Pacific road was pushed too fast he said if the late Government had had charge of building it there would have been no danger of the great rapidity of construction, nor would there have been any cause for the gentleman to complain that the settlements were being pushed out too far into the wilderness. If Mr. MacKenzie's water stretches had been utilized the settlers would have hung around Winnipeg, and had no opportunity to go out along the line. They would have been at the mercy of the speculators who held the lands, instead of having the whole country within easy reach by rail. And this had been afforded the settler by the rapid construction of the line. Not one honest bona fide settler had been disturbed by the land regulations, and those regulations had been established for, and had succeeded in, the protection of the lands against speculators and agents. He claimed that the colonization companies had done much to advertise the country and attract settlers, and none of these had been disturbed, though some bogus companies had been forced to yield up their claims. As to

THE HUDSON BAY RAILWAY,

the Government encouraged it, and was prepared to give it a larger land grant than to any line which had been chartered in the North-West. As to the enterprise of the syndicate undertaking the other lines besides those contracted for with the Government, he could say that not a dollar of money, not an acre of land had been granted to the company, except on the certificate of the Government engineer that the value had been expended on the main line. He was unable to say what interest the syndicate had in the lines mentioned by Mr. Blake, but he knew that the task of connecting sea and sea had the main line had no links to connect it with the other systems to Montreal and the seaboard. It was not the desire of the Government to say in the address that

THE COUNTRY IS NOT PROSPEROUS

for it would have been untrue. The same circumstances which prevail here prevailed in the United States; but we do not find the press and the public men, the Congress and the Legislature, gloating over such misfortunes as the overproduction in a mill or factory here or there. Now Mr. Blake had asked why the fishery clauses in the Washington treaty which are soon to be abrogated, were not mentioned in the speech. It was strange to hear Mr. Blake say that measures should be taken to prevent these clauses from being dropped. When he had assisted in the negotiations at Washington he had been called a traitor, who sold the birthright of

his country, by the very gentlemen who now clamored for the continuance of the clauses, for consenting to which he had been blackened. This strongpoint aroused

THE FIRST GENUINE ENTHUSIASM

on the Ministerial benches. As to the Hodgson case, Sir John acknowledged that in the speech referred to by Mr. Blake he was free to say he had gone too far. Unlike Mr. Blake he did not pretend to be infallible. However, Mr. Blake had not said, and dare not now say in his capacity as a lawyer, that the McCarthy Act is unconstitutional. Of one thing the Opposition can be sure, the McCarthy Act will be enforced. As to Lennox, Mr. Blake had better have hired out that argument. Though he had been compelled unwillingly to ramoose that constituency, he imagined that the member now sitting in this House would shortly be disturbed. Before sitting down he indulged in some of his characteristic pleasantries and was loudly applauded. The address was then adopted.

SURPRISE.

On the evening of Wednesday 16th inst., a large number of the young people and others of the Rev. Mr. Wilson's Flesherton congregation, took possession of the manse where preparations for a pleasant time immediately took place. About the middle of the entertainment the following address was read by Mr. Jos. Blackburn.

To Rev. A. Wilson.

DEAR PASTOR.—Our invasion of your home to-night was intended to be a surprise to yourself and family, and while our relations are such that this temporary occupation of your home, may not require an apology on our part yet it suggests the question why?

As representing the young people of your Flesherton congregation, we desired an occasion to express to you our heartfelt appreciation of your constant and faithful endeavours to direct and help us, and in every way to promote our highest interests for this life and for the life hereafter. In our social gatherings by your hearty sympathy and co-operation you have shown us how the religion you preach may be practised and enjoyed. In your personal intercourse with us we have found you a true friend and wise counsellor. In your public ministrations your zeal and faithfulness have inspired in us some desire to find our place for usefulness in the church.

Sometimes our apparent indifference may have caused you pain or disappointment, but we feel assured that your teaching both in precept and example will not be lost upon us. While we disclaim any attempt to flatter you we deem it not unseemly to give you these few words of encouragement feeling how much you have given us of your time, your thought, and your heart. It is now my pleasing duty to present you this overcoat and whip with heartfelt wishes that you may live many years and that it may be a means of adding to your comfort in travel, preserving your health and prolonging your days.

Signed Joseph Blackburn, on behalf of the young people of the Flesherton Presbyterian congregation.

REPLY.

Mr. Blackburn and Friends.

It is always a source of pleasure both to myself and Mrs. Wilson to meet with any of our people and particularly in the manse to which we now give you a hearty welcome. I am happy to say that those relations we sustain towards each other are not nor have been in any way impaired by the labors or trials of the past years of my ministry among you, nay I may truly say that the bonds of esteem and christian affection are becoming even stronger, and while I am unable to reply suitably to this beautiful, well worded and encouraging address. I can say, I thank you, not so much because the gift is a rich and valuable one, but for the sentiment with which it is accompanied, for the spirit of brotherly affection which breathes through it, and for the prompt expression of loyalty made me not many days ago. I know that as a congregation we may have had days of darkness but through them we have been kindly led and greatly blessed. As often as I have had to meet discouraging circumstances as frequently have I been borne up by the sympathy and prayerful support of my people. Again thanking you I trust that I shall be enabled in some measure at least to show that I am worthy of the people over whom I am placed as Pastor.

What is the difference between a donkey and a postage stamp? one you stick with a lick and the other you lick with a stick.