

2. That we receive with pleasure His Excellency's congratulations upon the spirit of loyalty and patriotism which has been manifested throughout the country in the enrolment of Volunteer Militia Companies, and on the zeal and activity displayed by the Volunteers and the Drill Associations in rendering themselves efficient for active service, should their assistance in defence of the Province be unhappily required; and we are happy to learn that a Bill will be submitted to us containing amendments to the existing Militia Law, having for its object to improve the system now in force for the defensive organization of the people.

3. That we shall give our most respectful attention to any measure for the more fair adjustment of Parliamentary Representation in each section of the Province, which His Excellency may cause to be laid before us, as well as to any Bill for the more equitable settlement of the relation between Debtor and Creditor, and to afford relief to insolvent debtors, and to any other measures of public utility in relation to the Administration of Justice, to the Registration of Titles, and to the law respecting Patents for Inventions, which may be submitted for our consideration.

4. That we thank His Excellency for the intimation that shortly after the close of the last Session of the Legislature, he appointed Commissioners to enquire into the state of the Public Buildings at *Ottawa*, and especially into the expenditure already incurred in respect to them. That while we regret, with His Excellency, that this investigation has been unavoidably protracted, we are glad to know that a Report has been recently received, which will be laid before us, and that steps have been taken, based upon that report, with a view to the resumption and speedy completion of the works.

5. That we further thank His Excellency for informing us, that two Members of His Excellency's Executive Council have visited *London*, during the recess, to confer with the Imperial Government, in conjunction with delegates from *Nova Scotia* and *New Brunswick*, respecting the construction of an Intercolonial Railway, and that the correspondence with the Secretary for the Colonies, on this subject, will be laid before us without delay.

6. That it affords us pleasure to learn that these gentlemen were also instructed to call the attention of the Imperial Authorities to the importance of opening up for settlement the great North Western Territory, and of facilitating the establishment of direct communication between *Canada* and *British Columbia*, and to know that His Excellency believes that very favorable results may be expected from these representations, not only in the development of the resources of intermediate and distant possessions of the Crown, but in the commercial benefits that will accrue to this Province as the natural outlet for the productions of the West.

7. That we shall give our best attention to the Public Accounts for the past year, and to the Estimates for the supplies required for the service of the current year; and that we are grateful to His Excellency for the assurance that these Estimates have been prepared with the strictest attention to economy.

8. That we learn with satisfaction that His Excellency has appointed Commissioners to enquire into the state and condition of every branch of the Public Service, in order to ascertain and remedy the defects of the system now regulating the audit of accounts and the payment of moneys from the Public Exchequer, and with a view to the retrenchment of expenditure so far as may be found consistent with a due regard to efficiency; and that we hope, with His Excellency, that the result of their enquiries will introduce such a system of control and economy as may, before long, bring the expenditure of the Province within its annual income.

9. That we feel, with His Excellency, that the contributions which have spontaneously and freely flowed from the Province for the relief of distress in the Manufacturing Districts of *Great Britain*, are a gratifying evidence of the sympathy of the Canadian people with their fellow-subjects in the *British Isles*, and that we share His Excellency's confidence, that they will serve to strengthen the kindly ties which, we trust, will long continue to exist between this Colony and the Parent State.

10. That we shall earnestly endeavor to consider the several subjects which may be brought before us in a calm, impartial and unselfish spirit, and that we unite with His Excellency in fervently invoking the blessing of the Almighty on our performance of the important duties which the Constitution of the Province has imposed upon us.