

We learn with much interest that, satisfactory assurances having been received from Her Majesty's Government respecting the interpretation of certain clauses in the Treaty of Commerce with France, ratifications will be exchanged as soon as the necessary legislation has been passed.

We are pleased to be informed by Your Excellency that the recent action of the Imperial Parliament enabling the various Australasian Governments to enter into preferential trade relations with the other self-governing Colonies of the Empire, affords gratifying proof that the suggestions of the Colonial Conference are being favourably entertained by Her Majesty's Government.

We thank Your Excellency for informing us that, in conformity with a recent judgment of the Lords of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, to the effect that the dissentient minority of the people of Manitoba have a constitutional right of appeal to the Governor-General in Council against certain Acts passed by the legislature of the province of Manitoba in relation to the subject of education, Your Excellency heard in Council the appeal, that your decision thereon has been communicated to the legislature of the said province, and that the papers on the subject will be laid before us.

We are glad to hear from Your Excellency that the depression in trade which has prevailed throughout the world for the past few years has made itself felt in Canada to a less degree than in most other countries. We regret, however, to learn that although this has not resulted in any considerable decrease in the volume of our foreign trade, yet, owing to low prices and recent reductions in and removal of taxation, it has been followed by a serious decrease in revenue derived from Customs and Excise. We respectfully concur in Your Excellency's opinion that, in order to produce equilibrium between revenue and expenditure for the coming year, it will be necessary to observe the greatest possible economy in the appropriations for the various branches of the public service.

We are greatly pleased to hear that, during the period that has elapsed since the last Session of Parliament, Your Excellency had an opportunity of visiting many portions of the Dominion, including the Maritime Provinces, Manitoba, the North-west Territories, and British Columbia; that throughout these tours Your Excellency was impressed and gratified by manifestations of an abounding loyalty and public spirit; and that, notwithstanding the phase of trade depression already referred to, you observed everywhere unmistakable signs of that confident hopefulness in the future, based on a thorough belief in the greatness of the resources of Canada, which you are graciously pleased to say, is one of the characteristics of her people, and furnishes a good augury and pledge of further development and progress.

We receive with a deep sense of their importance Your Excellency's statements that the Government of Newfoundland having intimated its desire to renew negotiations looking to the admission of that colony into the Dominion of Canada, a sub-committee of Your Excellency's advisers have recently met in conference a delegation from the Island Government, and discussed with them the terms of union, and that it will be a subject of general congratulation if the negotiations now pending result in the incorporation of Her Majesty's oldest colonial possession into the Canadian Confederation.

We thank Your Excellency for the information that measures relating to bankruptcy and insolvency and to joint stock companies will be laid before us, and that we shall be asked to consider certain amendments to the Insurance Act, to the Act respecting Dominion Notes, to the Dominion Lands Act, to the Indian Act, to the North-west Territories Representation Act, and also a Bill respecting the land subsidy of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. Your Excellency may rest assured that all these matters will receive our most careful consideration.

In entering upon the discharge of the important duties devolving upon us, we join Your Excellency in an earnest prayer that, being guided by the spirit of wisdom and patriotism, our deliberations may, under the divine blessing, conduce to the unity and well-being of Canada.