

Council, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor General of Canada, and Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Island of Prince Edward.

*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.

We agree with Your Excellency that the auspicious recovery which the mercy of Providence vouchsafed from the well nigh mortal illness of the Prince of Wales, called forth a universal expression of joy and thankfulness throughout the Empire, and that all classes of the people testified their deep sense of relief from the anxieties of a long and painful suspense, by joining their beloved Queen in a public Thanksgiving, which proved in vastness of attendance and unanimity of feeling the grandest and most impressive ceremony ever witnessed in the British Capital.

We thank Your Excellency for inviting us to follow the good example on the fifteenth day of this month. We are glad that it was thought advisable to defer the solemnity until after the meeting of Parliament; and we assure Your Excellency that the members of this House will be anxious to unite with all Her Majesty's faithful subjects throughout the Dominion in celebrating the occasion with all becoming observance and loyal alacrity.

We thank Your Excellency for informing us that our meeting has itself been postponed to a later season than usual, upon considerations of Imperial as well as Colonial interest, and at the instance of Her Majesty's Government.

We learn with regret that the young Province of Manitoba was, last September, threatened with an invasion of lawless persons from the United States. But we are happy to be informed that prompt measures for resistance were adopted by the local authorities, and attended with the best results; that in order to reassure the people of the Province, and to prevent a recurrence of the outrage, Your Excellency ordered a force of two hundred militiamen to be sent to Fort Garry; and that, notwithstanding the inclement season of the year, the troops surmounted the difficulties of the march with energy and success, thus proving not only their own discipline and endurance, but also the value of the route through our own territory.

We thank Your Excellency for the promise that the accounts of the expenditure occasioned by this expedition will be laid before us, and we will give our most attentive consideration to the Bill to indemnify the Government which Your Excellency has been pleased to inform us we shall be requested to pass.

We are grateful also to Your Excellency for the intimation that a copy of the Treaty made at Washington last year between Her Majesty the Queen and the United States of America, in which the Dominion has so great an interest, will be laid before us, and that so much of the papers and of the completed correspondence as can be made public without injury to the interests of the Empire or of Canada will also be at once submitted for our information; and we will respond to Your Excellency's invitation by giving our best attention to this important subject.

We rejoice to learn from Your Excellency that a conference was held at Ottawa in September last, on the subject of Immigration, at which the Government of the Dominion, as well as those of every Province, were represented; and that a scheme for joint and several action was provisionally arranged, to which Your Excellency is pleased to invite our attention. We shall be well inclined to make ample provisions for the encouragement of Immigration, with the maintenance and extension of which the development of the vast natural resources of Canada is so vitally interwoven.

It gives us great pleasure to be officially informed by Your Excellency that since last Session the union of British Columbia with Canada has been happily consummated, and that her representatives now take part in our deliberations.

We thank Your Excellency for recalling our attention to the fact that in order to open up and settle the fertile Territories of the North West, and to link British Columbia therewith, it will be necessary for Parliament to make provision for the construction of a Railway to the Pacific Ocean, in conformity with the terms of Her Majesty's Order in Council, uniting British Columbia with the Dominion, and for reminding us that an appropriation was made in the last Session for the preliminary Survey of the route for this Railway; and we are glad to learn from Your Excellency that the work has been diligently prosecuted, and that a report of the progress achieved will be laid before us.

We concur with Your Excellency in thinking that the long contemplated improvement and extension of our system of Canals ought to be vigorously prosecuted,