

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate:*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

In fulfilment 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 a part in the public affairs of the Dominion, and to 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 such as to justify me in congratulating you upon its prosperity.

The marked success attained by Canada at the International Fishery Exhibition in London, must be very gratifying to you, and has, I doubt not, been 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 the 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 for your approval.

The number of immigrants to Canada during the past season has, I am glad to say, been greater than in any previous year, and is 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 the 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 that Province last summer on a special mission with a view to the 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 the 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.

The 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 this important matter.

The progress of the Indians in Manitoba and the North-west during last year has been on the whole satisfactory. The Bands included in the several Indian Treaties have for the most part betaken themselves to their reserves. A Bill for the further promotion of their interests will be submitted to you, as well as a measure applicable to the whole Dominion for the purpose of encouraging the more advanced Indian communities to assume the responsibilities of self-government.

The Bill laid before you last session for the representation of the people in Parliament and the assimilation of the electoral franchises existing in the several Provinces has now been before the Country for a 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 workingman 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 two thousand eight hundred and thirty-three miles of the main line between Pembroke and Port Moody, one thousand seven hundred and thirty-eight miles are now constructed, rendering practicable the completion of that great work within the next two years. Although the time within which the Railway Company is 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 unsold shares, the Government agreed to receive a deposit of