

TO HIS EXCELLENCY the Right Honorable Sir FREDERICK ARTHUR STANLEY, Baron Stanley of Preston, in the County of Lancaster, in the Peerage of Great Britain; Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Governor General of Canada and Vice-Admiral of the same.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:—

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Senate of Canada in Parliament assembled, humbly thank Your Excellency for your gracious Speech at the opening of this Session, and for your expression of satisfaction in resorting to the advice and assistance of the Parliament of Canada for the first time, in fulfilment of the important trust which has been committed to Your Excellency as Her Majesty's Representative.

We also respectfully thank Your Excellency for your gracious expressions as to your association with our labours for the welfare of the Dominion, and as to Your Excellency's earnest endeavour to co-operate with us, to the utmost of your power, in all that may promote the prosperity of the people of this country, the development of her material resources, and the maintenance of the constitutional ties which unite her provinces.

We desire to express our concurrence with Your Excellency's expression of regret that the treaty concluded between Her Majesty and the President of the United States for the adjustment of the questions which have arisen with reference to "The Fisheries" has not been sanctioned by the United States Senate, in whom the power of ratification is vested, and that our legislation of last year on the subject is therefore in a great measure inoperative.

We also respectfully concur in Your Excellency's opinion that it now only remains for Canada to continue to maintain her rights as prescribed by the Convention of 1818, until some satisfactory re-adjustment is arranged by treaty between the two nations.

We thank Your Excellency for informing us that a measure will again be submitted to us to amend the Acts respecting the Electoral Franchise, for the purpose of simplifying the law and lessening the cost of its operation.

We are glad to be informed that it is expedient, in the interests of commerce, to assimilate, and in some particulars to amend, the laws which now obtain in the several Provinces of the Dominion relating to Bills of Exchange, Cheques, and Promissory Notes, and that a Bill with this object will be laid before us.

We thank Your Excellency for informing us that a Bill will also be provided for making uniform throughout the Dominion the laws relating to Bills of Lading.

We hear with great interest that during the recess Your Excellency's Government has carefully considered the subject of Ocean Steam Service, and that we shall be asked to provide subsidies for the improvement of the Atlantic Mail Service, and for the establishment, in concert with Her Majesty's Government, of a line of fast steamers between British Columbia and China and Japan. Our attention, which Your Excellency has been pleased to say will also be invited to the best mode of developing our trade, and securing direct communication by steam with Australasia, the West Indies and South America, shall be cheerfully given to these important subjects.

We shall carefully consider any Bill which may be submitted for our consideration for the prevention of certain offences in connection with Municipal Councils, and to give greater facilities for making inquiries as to such matters.

Your Excellency has been pleased to inform us that several measures will also be presented to us for improving the law of procedure in criminal cases, and that among these will be a Bill to permit the release on probation of persons convicted of first offences, a Bill authorizing regulations to be made for the practice in cases partaking of the nature of criminal proceedings, and a Bill to make the Speedy Trials Act applicable throughout Canada. We respectfully assure Your Excellency that they shall receive our most attentive consideration, as shall also the Bills relating to