

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 are happy to learn that the accounts of the expenditure occasioned by this expedition will be laid before us, and we shall respectfully consider any Bill to indemnify the Government.

We thank Your Excellency for informing us, 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 our best attention will be given to this important subject.

We learn with pleasure 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 invites our attention; and we do not doubt that we shall be inclined to make ample provision 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 is a source of the highest gratification to us to know that since last Session the Union of *British Columbia* with *Canada* has been happily consummated, and her Representatives now take part in our deliberations.

We agree with Your Excellency, 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 us 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 having made an appropriation in the last Session for the preliminary Survey of the route for this Railway, we are pleased to learn 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. The rapid increase in the trade of *Canada*, and the importance of competing for, and accommodating the commerce of the Great West, render it necessary that the means of transport by water should be cheapened and facilitated. We shall give our most serious consideration to this subject, and in connection with it, to the expediency of providing a direct water communication between the Gulf of *St. Lawrence* and the Bay of *Fundy*.

We are aware that the decennial Census having been taken last year, the duty of re-adjusting the representation in Parliament of the four Provinces originally constituting the Dominion, devolves upon us now, according to the terms of the Union Act: and we shall give our best attention to any measure for the purpose which may be submitted for our consideration; as we shall also to any Bills presented to us relating to the Judges of Superior Courts,—to the regulation and management of the Public Lands and Mines of the Dominion in *Manitoba* and the *North West Territories*,—and for the amendment of the laws relating to the Public Health.

We thank Your Excellency for the assurance that the Accounts of the past year will at once be laid before us, and likewise a statement of the Receipts and Expenditure of the current year, up to the close of the last month; and we share Your Excellency's gratification in being able to announce to us that the Revenue for the past, as well as that for the current year, will be considerably in excess of what was estimated, and that consequently there is no reason to apprehend embarrassment from the immediate commencement of the contemplated public improvements.

We shall respectfully consider the Estimates for the ensuing year which will be