

Throne, and Her Majesty has been pleased to receive very graciously your dutiful expressions of congratulation. In the joy with which the Nation at large has lately hailed the birth of the young Prince, I am confident that the people of this Province have fully participated.

"The Civil War in the United States has not yet ceased, nor has it assumed a less sanguinary or destructive character. That the blessing of peace may speedily be restored to that country is, I feel well assured, your earnest hope and desire, as it is my own.

"I have received a Communication from the Administrator of the Government of Nova Scotia on the subject of the Legislative and Administrative Union of the Provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. I have directed this Communication to be laid before you, and I entertain no doubt that its contents will receive from you that attentive consideration which their importance demands.

"The Correspondence which has taken place on the subject of the Inter-Colonial Railway since the close of the last Session, will also be laid before you. These Papers will fully explain the nature of the negotiations which have taken place between the different Provinces interested in this undertaking. Any action in this matter has hitherto unfortunately proved impracticable; but I cannot bring myself to believe that temporary misunderstandings will be allowed ultimately to frustrate the completion of a work so necessary to the political and material progress and security of British North America.

"I felt myself compelled to reserve for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure, a Bill passed by you during the last Session, entitled 'A Bill relating to certain exemptions from Duty at the Port of Saint Stephen.' It is with satisfaction that I am enabled to inform you that Her Majesty has been pleased to confirm this Bill, which has consequently now become law. I have directed the Correspondence on this subject to be laid before you.

"I recommend you to consider whether provision might not advantageously be made for the winding up, in certain cases, of Trade Corporations and Joint Stock Companies.

"I desire to call your attention to the existing state of the Law relating to Steam Navigation, and you will no doubt consider whether it may not be so amended as to afford greater security to life and property.

"The Deposits in the Saint John Savings' Bank had, at the close of the Fiscal Year, fully reached the amount now authorized by Law, and for a time the Trustees of that Institution were compelled to refuse to receive any additional sums. It is worthy of your consideration whether, without loss to the public Revenue, increased facilities may not be afforded to the industrious classes for availing themselves of this safe mode of investment for their earnings.

"The freight traffic on the Provincial Railroad has steadily increased in amount, and great difficulty and expense now attend the delivery of lumber and other bulky goods which have been conveyed to Saint John by its means. I recommend you to consider whether these inconveniences might not be surmounted by prolonging the Railway to a Terminus in close proximity with the deep water of the Harbour of Saint John.

"Measures for the amendment of some portions of the Criminal Law will shortly be submitted to you.

"I have continued to give my attention to the re-organization of the Provincial Militia. The task has been attended with many difficulties, but on the whole I am not dissatisfied with the result. The conduct of those who have gratuitously aided me in this work, whether as Officers of Militia,