

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate :*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

In meeting the Parliament of *Canada* for the first time, I desire to express the gratification I feel at having been selected by Her Majesty, for the high and important office I now fill, and to assure you of the great satisfaction with which I now seek your aid and co-operation.

In acknowledging with profound gratitude the reception which has been accorded to myself, as Her Majesty's representative, I am also commanded by *The Queen* to convey, through you, to the people of *Canada*, Her thanks for the loyal, generous and kindly manner in which they have welcomed Her daughter.

The contribution of Canadian products and manufactures to the great National Exhibition at *Paris*, last year, attracted much attention, and, it is believed, will have a beneficial effect on the trade of the Dominion with *Europe*. I congratulate you on the success which must, in no small degree, be attributable to the kind and unceasing exertions of His Royal Highness the Prince of *Wales*, as President of the British section. The report of the Canadian Commissioners will be laid before you when received.

I am pleased to inform you that the amount awarded for the Fishery Claims, under the *Washington Treaty*, has been paid by the *United States*, and that Her Majesty's Government has arranged with *Canada* and *Newfoundland* for their respective shares of the award. The papers on the subject shall be submitted to you.

The important and rapidly increasing trade between *Canada* and *England*, in live cattle, has been seriously threatened by the appearance, in various parts of the *United States*, of pleuro-pneumonia. In order to prevent the contagion from spreading to *Canada*, and the consequent interruption of the trade, I have caused an Order to be issued under "The Animal Contagious Diseases' Act, 1869," prohibiting the importation or introduction into the Dominion of American cattle, for a short period. It is hoped that the disease will be, ere long, extinguished in the *United States*, and the necessity for continuing the prohibition removed. Your attention will be invited to an amendment of the Act I have just referred to.

My Government has commenced negotiations, with Her Majesty's sanction, for the development of the trade of *Canada* with *France* and *Spain*, and with their respective colonies. I hope to be able to lay before you the result of these negotiations during the present Session.

It is the purpose of my Government to press for the most vigorous prosecution of the Canadian *Pacific Railway* and to meet the reasonable expectations of *British Columbia*. In carrying out this intention, due regard must be had to the financial position of the country. Communication by rail has been effected between *Manitoba* and the *United States* system of railways, by the junction, at *St. Vincent*, of the *Pembina* branch of our railway, with the *St. Paul and Pacific Railroad*. That portion of the main line which extends from *English River* to *Keewatin* is now being placed under contract, and will be energetically pushed to completion in order to secure, as rapidly as is possible, the connection between *Lake Superior* and the great *North-West*.

A Bill for the amendment and consolidation of the Acts relating to Stamps shall be submitted for your consideration, as well as a measure amending the Act relating to Weights and Measures.

The decennial census must be taken in 1881. I think it expedient that a measure for the purpose should be passed during the present Session in order to give ample time for the preparation of all the preliminary arrangements, and to ensure the census being taken as accurately and inexpensively as possible. In connection with this subject it may be well to consider the propriety of providing some means for the collection and collation of vital, criminal and general statistics.

A Bill will be laid before you for the re-arrangement of some of the Departments of the Government, and also measures relating to the survey and management of the Dominion Lands, to the Mounted Police, and to the Post Office Department; and also for the amendment, in some particulars, of the laws relating to Indians.