

May it please your Excellency :

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Senate of *Canada*, in Parliament assembled, respectfully thank Your Excellency for your gracious speech at the opening of this Session.

We thank Your Excellency for the expression of your satisfaction in meeting us at this, the usual and most convenient season of the year, and under the present auspicious circumstances of the country.

We regret to learn from Your Excellency that the hope Your Excellency was sanguine enough to express at the close of the last Session, that no further attempt would be made to disturb our frontier was doomed to early disappointment ; that the Session had scarcely closed when lawless bands assembled within the *United States* in great numbers, and renewed the menace of invasion ; and that they ventured to cross the border at two points.

It gives us great satisfaction, however, to be informed by Your Excellency that the invaders were promptly met and repelled ; that so complete and humiliating was the repulse, that they lost heart and hope, threw away quantities of arms, and fell back to encumber the villages in their rear, with their starving and demoralized masses ; that our Militia rallied at the first call to arms with praiseworthy alacrity, and the spirit which pervades the country, swell their numbers with volunteers from all quarters ; and that the gallantry displayed and the success achieved, have been duly recognized by the highest military authority, and honored, in gratifying terms of appreciation, by Her Most Gracious Majesty.

Your Excellency having been pleased to state that in maintaining the Militia on active duty, the Government incurred an outlay to a considerable amount beyond what was provided by the votes of last Session, and that the accounts of the entire expenditure for the defence of the frontier will be laid before us, we beg leave to assure Your Excellency that we will give our best attention to any Bill to indemnify the Government which Your Excellency may cause to be laid before us.

We rejoice to hear from Your Excellency that your anticipations of success in regard to the Act passed for the Government of *Manitoba*, and the North West Territories, and in regard to the Military Expedition, which it was necessary to despatch, has been fortunately realized ; that the troops surmounted the difficulties of the long and toilsome route with endurance and intelligence ; that they encountered no armed opposition, and their arrival at the *Red River* was cordially welcomed by the inhabitants ; that the people of the new Province have, under the Constitution accorded to them last year, assumed all the duties of self-government, and that every appearance warrants the hope that they are entering steadily upon a career of peace and prosperity.

We thank Your Excellency for informing us that the Legislature of *British Columbia* has passed an Address to Her Majesty, praying for admission into the Union, on the terms and conditions therein stated ; and we beg to assure Your Excellency that our earnest attention will be given to the papers on this important subject, which Your Excellency is pleased to say will be submitted to us ; and it will give us great pleasure to find the terms so fair as to justify us in passing a similar Address, so that the boundaries of *Canada* may, at an early day, be extended from the shores of the *Atlantic* Ocean on the one side, to the shores of the *Pacific* on the other.

Should such an address be adopted, we will give our best consideration to the question of taking steps to secure the early exploration and survey of a route for an Inter-oceanic Railway, with a view to its construction in accordance with the terms of Union.

We agree with Your Excellency that the acquisition of the North West Territories throws upon the Government and Parliament of the Dominion the duty of promoting their early settlement by the encouragement of immigration ; and that this duty can be best discharged by a liberal land policy, and by opening up communications through our own Country to *Manitoba*. The means proposed for accomplishing these purposes, when submitted to us, will receive our attentive consideration.