

trade of the Dominion with *Europe*. We accept with pleasure Your Excellency's congratulations on the success which, we agree with Your Excellency in thinking, 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; and we thank Your Excellency for saying that the Report of the Canadian Commissioners will be laid before us when received.

We beg leave to assure Your Excellency that we share the pleasure with which Your Excellency has informed us 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. And we thank Your Excellency for stating that the papers on the subject will be submitted to us.

We are deeply concerned to know that 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. We thank Your Excellency for informing us that in order to prevent the contagion from spreading to *Canada*, and the consequent interruption of the trade, Your Excellency has 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, and that it is hoped that ere long the disease will be extinguished in the *United States*, and the necessity for continuing the prohibition removed. Our careful attention will be given when invited to an amendment of the Act referred to by Your Excellency.

We receive with great gratification the announcement that Your Excellency's Government has commenced negotiations with Her Majesty's sanction, for the developement of the trade of *Canada* with *France* and *Spain*, and with their respective colonies, and that Your Excellency hopes to be able to lay before us the result of these negotiations during the present session.

We are much pleased at hearing from Your Excellency that it is the purpose of your Government to press for the most vigorous prosecution of the Canadian *Pacific Railway* and to meet the reasonable expectations of *British Columbia*. We agree with Your Excellency in the conviction that in carrying out this intention, due regard must be had to the financial position of the country. We are glad to know that 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*, and that 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*.

Our best attention will be given to the Bills, for the amendment and consolidation of the Acts relating to Stamps, and for amending the Act relating to Weights and Measures, which Your Excellency has been pleased to say will be submitted for our consideration.

Our most attentive consideration will also be given to the measure for the purposes of the decennial census to be taken in 1881, which Your Excellency thinks it expedient 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, we shall be prepared to consider also the propriety of providing some means for the collection and collation of vital, criminal and general statistics.

Our careful attention and consideration will also be given to the Bill for the re-arrangement of some of the Departments of the Government, and to the 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, and for the vesting in Her Majesty, for the use of the Dominion, of certain Ordnance and Admiralty Lands in the Provinces of *Nova Scotia* and *New Brunswick*, which Your Excellency has also been pleased to lay before us.