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Your Excellency, to think that your assumption of office should have taken place at a period when the prospects of the country appear so full of promise; when peace and amity prevail amongst all neighbouring nations; and when so many indications are afforded of the success with which Canada herself is consolidating her political unity, and developing her material resources.

We thank Your Excellency for informing us that in accordance with the decision of Parliament, and to carry into effect the legislation of last Session, Your Excellency has caused a Charter to be granted to a body of Canadian capitalists for the construction of the *Pacific Railway*. We are glad to hear that the Company now formed has given assurance that this great work will be vigorously prosecuted; and that a favorable state of the money market in *England* affords every hope that satisfactory arrangements may be made for the required capital. We shall duly consider the papers and correspondence relating to this subject which Your Excellency may be pleased to lay before us.

We are glad to be informed that during the past year the surveys for the improvement and extension of our system of Canals, for which appropriations were made last Session, have been in active preparation; that the plans and specifications for the enlargement of the *Welland*, and the construction of the *Bas de Verts* Canals, have been completed, so that the works can now be put under contract; and we are pleased to learn that Your Excellency is assured that the surveys for the *St. Lawrence* Canals will be finished in time to commence the works at the beginning of next year, which we rejoice to be informed will ensure the completion of all these great undertakings at the same period.

We are gratified to hear that the efforts made to encourage immigration have met with a great measure of success, and that the numbers seeking a home in *Canada* have been greatly augmented during the last year. We shall readily concur in such measures as shall make ample provision for the steadily increasing stream of settlers that may hereafter be annually expected to add to the population, wealth and strength of the Dominion.

We are thankful to learn that the first Census of the Dominion approaches completion, and we concur with Your Excellency in the opinion that this would, therefore, seem to be a fitting time to provide for the establishment of a proper system for the accurate collection and scientific arrangement of statistical information. We shall cheerfully give our attention to this important subject.

We are fully aware, that it is important that provision should be made for the consolidation and amendment of the Laws, now in force in the several Provinces, relating to the representation of the people in Parliament; and we assure Your Excellency that any measure for this purpose, and for the trial of Controverted Elections, which may be submitted to us, shall receive our most attentive consideration.

Our earnest attention will be given to any measure which Your Excellency may cause to be brought before us for the amendment of the Laws relating to Pilots, to Salvage, and to the Trinity Houses of *Montreal* and *Quebec*, as well as for the improvement of the Laws generally affecting our Merchant Shipping.

We concur with Your Excellency, in opinion that experience has shown that the duties now performed in the Offices of the Secretary of State and the Secretary for the Provinces may be re-adjusted with advantage to the public service: and we shall respectfully consider any Bill on the subject which Your Excellency may cause to be laid before us; as we shall also any Bills presented to us relating to the Criminal Law, to Weights and Measures, and to the amendment and consolidation of the Inspection Laws.