

To His Excellency the Right Honorable Sir JOHN DOUGLAS SUTHERLAND CAMPBELL (commonly called the Marquis of Lorne), Knight of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of *Saint Michael and Saint George*, and Governor General of *Canada*, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c., &c.

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 also thank Your Excellency for expressing pleasure at meeting us again for the despatch of the business of the country.

We agree with Your Excellency in feeling that the abundant harvest with which Providence has blessed *Canada* is a cause for the deepest thankfulness; and we thankfully accept Your Excellency's congratulations on the evidence which surround us of a recovery from the commercial and industrial depression which has so long weighed down the energies of the people.

We heartily concur with Your Excellency in thinking that our returning prosperity should direct our attention to the less fortunate circumstances of our fellow subjects in Ireland, where so much destitution prevails; and we are grateful to Your Excellency for inviting our consideration of the best means of shewing our practical sympathy with their distress.

We feel also, with Your Excellency, that we have reason to congratulate ourselves on the number of settlers who have during the past year come into our *North-West* from *Great Britain* and the *United States*, as well as from the older Provinces of the Dominion. The visit of two members of the Royal Commission on the agricultural distress in the Mother Country, and the favorable report of the tenant farmers who, at the instance of Your Excellency's Government, have examined into the capabilities of the Dominion, will, we are willing to believe, largely increase the number of immigrants during the present year. Preparations must be made for their reception, and our attention will be given to this subject, to which Your Excellency has been pleased to say it will be specially called.

It gives us great pleasure to learn from Your Excellency that every effort has been made to hasten the construction of the Canadian *Pacific* Railway from *Lake Superior* to *Red River*, and that no doubt is entertained that the Railway will be opened for traffic between those important points within the time specified in the contracts. We are glad to learn, also, that under the authority given by Parliament last Session, nearly one hundred miles from *Red River* to the western boundary of *Manitoba* has been placed under contract, and tenders are about being asked for, for the construction of another hundred miles from the boundary westward, and that the completion of these two sections will at an early day afford railway facilities through two hundred miles of the most fertile land in the *North-West*. We thank Your Excellency for informing us that after an exploratory survey of the line from *Port Simpson* to the *Pine River Pass*, and through the *Peace River* country, it has been decided to adopt the location of the line to *Burrard Inlet*, and contracts have been awarded for one hundred and twenty-seven miles of the Railway between *Emory's Bar*, on *Fraser River*, and *Savona's Ferry*, and that this work will be vigorously proceeded with so soon as the Spring opens. We concur with Your Excellency in the opinion that its construction will complete the most difficult portion of the Canadian *Pacific* Railway and secure the connection by steam of the fertile district of *Kamloops* with the capital of *British Columbia*.

It affords us great satisfaction to be informed by Your Excellency that the adoption of a rigid system of economy in the management of the Intercolonial Railway has, without impairing the efficiency of its working, effected such a diminution of expense as to warrant the belief that the country will in future be relieved from any considerable burden in connection with its operation.