

To His Excellency the Right Honourable 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*, Governor General of *Canada*, and Vice-Admiral of the same, etc., etc.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:—

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of *Canada* in Parliament assembled, humbly thank Your Excellency for your gracious Speech at the opening of the present Session.

We receive with much pleasure Your Excellency's congratulations on the auspicious circumstances under which at the opening of a new Parliament we shall begin our labours.

We are gratified by the expression of Your Excellency's opinion, that *Canada* is in the enjoyment of peace and prosperity, and that all her industries, agricultural, manufacturing and commercial, are in a healthy and improving condition.

We thank Your Excellency for informing us that, following the example of your distinguished predecessor, you paid a visit of some length to *British Columbia*, last season; and for the expression of your conviction that the great natural resources of that Province promise, that as soon as the *Pacific Railway* is completed, an impulse to its prosperity, commensurate with the progress made elsewhere, will be assured, and that, meanwhile, the disposal of the lands set aside in aid of the Railway to actual settlers will add to the importance and wealth of the Province.

We learn with great satisfaction that, while passing through the *United States*, Your Excellency was rejoiced to observe many evidences of regard for the Empire of which this country forms so large a portion; and that we concur heartily in Your Excellency's wish that this friendship, which is so fully returned by us, may be as enduring as it is natural and advantageous to the mutual interests of both great nations.

We share Your Excellency's belief that the steady flow of settlers into *Manitoba* and the *North-West Territories* last year, and the assurances received of an increased immigration during the coming season, promise well for the early development of those fertile and salubrious regions.

We understand that Your Excellency has been advised that it is important that the laws relating to the representation of the people in Parliament should be amended and the electoral franchises existing in the several Provinces assimilated; and that the measure to be submitted to us for this purpose will receive full consideration.

We thank Your Excellency for the intimation that you are advised that the Judgment of the Lords of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council delivered last June on the appeal of *Russell versus the Queen* goes to show, that, in order to prevent the unrestrained sale of intoxicating liquors, and for that purpose to regulate the granting of shop, saloon and tavern licenses, legislation by the Dominion Parliament will be necessary; and that Your Excellency may rest assured that our earnest consideration will be given to this important subject.

Our special attention shall be given to any measure submitted to us for regulating Factory Labour and the protection of the workingman and his family.

The Bills for the consolidation and amendment of the laws relating to the Customs, the Militia, and the Public Lands, which Your Excellency is pleased to say will be laid before us, shall receive our consideration; as shall also any measures presented to us respecting the Civil Service, the Acts relating to Banking, and the examination of Masters and Mates of vessels navigating our inland waters.

It affords us much satisfaction to be informed by Your Excellency that the progress of the Canadian *Pacific Railway* has been quite unprecedented, that traffic can now be carried on the main line from *Thunder Bay* to within fifty miles of the crossing of the *South Saskatchewan*, a distance of over one thousand miles, that it is