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We thank Your Excellency for reminding us, that under the operation of an Act of the Imperial Parliament, passed in the year 1869, to amend the Laws relating to the Coasting Trade and Merchant Shipping in British Possessions, a period of two years is given to the Legislatures of the several Colonies of the Empire to make provision for the regulation of their Coasting Trade, and that in the absence of legislation on the subject, within the period named, the provisions of the Imperial Law will be in force. The extent and value of our internal commerce render legislation on this subject desirable, and we shall give our best attention to any measure with regard to it which may be submitted for our consideration.

We agree with Your Excellency, that the creation of a Court of Appeal, under the powers conferred upon us by the Union Act, is a matter well deserving our attention; and we shall not fail attentively to consider any measure submitted to us for the establishment of such a Court, and for conferring upon it certain original jurisdiction.

We bear in mind that the year 1871 is that in which the next decennial census is fixed by law to take place, and that, as there are different laws on the subject in the several provinces, it will be necessary to pass a General Act, to establish a uniform and accurate system throughout the Dominion. We are glad to know that steps have already been taken to secure the co-operation of *Newfoundland* and *Prince Edward Island*; and we trust with Your Excellency that a census upon one system will be made simultaneously in all Her Majesty's British North American Possessions. We are sensible of the importance of the information which the tables of the Census are calculated to afford, as, in addition to their interest and value on general grounds, it must be recollected that upon them depends the re-adjustment of the Parliamentary representation.

We shall respectfully consider the accounts of the last year, and the estimates for the present financial year which Your Excellency has been pleased to direct to be submitted to us. We receive with pleasure the assurance that these estimates have been framed with every regard to economy, compatible with the efficiency of the Public Service; and we hope that the Finances will be found to be in a satisfactory state, and that the people can, without inconvenience, afford, for the service of Her Majesty, the supplies which it will be the duty of Your Excellency's Government to ask us to vote.

We thank Your Excellency for informing us that the Act respecting the Militia and Defence of the Dominion has not failed to engage your attention. We are proud to feel, with Your Excellency, that the high spirit and loyalty of the people are placed in a clear light by the fact that the Active Militia have, voluntarily, come forward largely in excess of the quota required, as well as by the zealous attendance of the various Corps at the annual training in the camps, and by the promptness with which they assembled in force, at the call of duty, on more than one occasion when Fenian marauders threatened the peace of the country.

We have observed, with great satisfaction, the efforts which have been made in several of the Provinces of the Dominion to foster and encourage immigration to our shores. We are glad to learn that Your Excellency believes that the continued progress of great public works, in many portions of the country, will afford the opportunity of early employment to intending immigrants, that you look forward with confidence to the addition of a large and valuable class of settlers to our population during the coming season.

We learn, with much satisfaction, that during the Summer and Autumn Your Excellency had the opportunity of visiting different parts of the Dominion, proceeding first to *Quebec*, and thence to the *Maritime* Provinces; and having at *Halifax* the honor of receiving His Royal Highness Prince *Arthur*; and having subsequently attended His Royal Highness in a tour through the Province of *Ontario*; and we are happy to be informed that everywhere the great capabilities of the Country, and the proofs of vigorous industry made themselves apparent, and that it became your Excellency's pleasing duty to report to Her Majesty's Government, as the result of your observation, that the inhabitants of the Dominion are well contented with their condition and prospects, and