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*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate :*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

The hope I expressed at the close of the last Session, that on the re-assembling of Parliament we should be able to congratulate ourselves on a season of peace and prosperity has been fully realized.

Canada has been favored with a year of great prosperity.

Her farmers have enjoyed a plentiful harvest and remunerative prices.

Her manufacturing and other industries have been and continue to be developed under favorable auspices.

Her trade and commerce have been steadily increasing, and peace and order prevail within her borders.

For these various blessings we cannot be sufficiently thankful to the Giver of all good things.

The Chief Magistrate of the *United States* has been cut off by the hand of an assassin, and it is fitting that the sorrow of our people for a loss which was not that of our friends and neighbors alone, should be here adverted to as another instance of the sympathy which unites in brotherhood the British Empire and the American Republic.

During the Recess I had the pleasure of visiting the Province of *Manitoba*, and of traversing the extensive prairies of the *North-West*, and from personal examination can sincerely congratulate *Canada* on the possession of so magnificent and fertile a region to be inhabited, I trust, in the course of years, by millions of thriving and contented subjects of Her Majesty.

The immigrants have not confined themselves to *Manitoba* or its vicinity, but are scattered over the country westward to the base of the *Rocky Mountains*, and from the international boundary to the banks of the Northern *Saskatchewan*. It is, therefore, thought that the time has come for the division of the Territories into four or more Provisional Districts with an appropriate nomenclature. The subject will be submitted for your consideration.

During my journey I was met by numerous Indian tribes, all expressing confidence in the continuance of the traditional policy of kindness and justice which has hitherto governed the relations between the Government and the Aborigines.

I regret, however, to say that the necessity of supplementing the food supply of the Indians still exists and is likely to continue for some years.

Every exertion has been made to settle the Indian Bands on Reserves, and to induce them to betake themselves to the raising of cattle and cultivating the soil.

These efforts have met with a fair measure of success, but we can only expect by a long continuance of patient firmness to induce these children of the Prairie and the Forest to abandon their nomadic habits, become self-supporting, and ultimately add to the industrial wealth of the country.

The influx of a white population has greatly increased the danger of collision between the settler and Red man, and in my opinion renders an augmentation of the Mounted Police a matter of urgency. Your sanction to this increase will be sought.

The second Report of the Commission appointed to investigate the existing system of the Civil Service will be laid before you, and a measure on the subject submitted for your consideration.

The decennial Census having been taken last year, the duty of reconsidering and re-adjusting the representation in the House of Commons is imposed upon you. A measure for the purpose will be laid before you.

Several other measures of importance will be submitted to you. Among them will be Bills for the winding up of Insolvent Banks, Insurance Companies and Trading Corporations; for the consolidation and amendment of the Laws respecting the Dominion Lands; for the amendment of the Acts relating to the Supreme Court of *Canada*, and Bills relating to the tenure of office of the Judges of County Courts,