

the Franchise, and regulating Elections to the House of Commons. We are glad to learn from Your Excellency that a measure upon this subject will be submitted for our consideration.

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. We concur in opinion with Your Excellency, that the extent and value of our internal commerce render legislation on this subject desirable, and we thank Your Excellency for informing us that a measure with regard to it will be submitted for our consideration.

We concur with Your Excellency in opinion that the creation of a Court of Appeal, under the powers conferred upon us by the Union Act, is a matter deserving our attention, and we are thankful to Your Excellency for the information that a measure will be submitted to us for the establishment of such a Court, and for conferring upon it certain original jurisdiction.

We thank Your Excellency for reminding us that the year 1871 is that in which the decennial Census is fixed by law to take place; and as there are different laws on the subject in the several Provinces, we agree with your Excellency that in order to establish a uniform and accurate system throughout the Dominion, a general act will be necessary. We are glad to learn from Your Excellency 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 agree with Your Excellency in your estimate 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 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 agree 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 this country.

With Your Excellency, 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 join, with Your Excellency, in expecting that the continued progress of great public works, in many portions of the country, will afford the opportunity of early employment to intending immigrants, and in looking forward with confidence to the addition of a large and valuable class of settlers to our population during the coming season.

We learn with pleasure that, during the Summer and Autumn, Your Excellency had the opportunity of visiting different parts of the Dominion; that Your Excellency proceeded first to *Quebec*, thence to the Maritime Provinces, and, at *Halifax*, had the honor of receiving His Royal Highness Prince *Arthur*; that subsequently Your Excellency attended His Royal Highness in a tour through the Province of *Ontario*; 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 observations, that the Inhabitants of the Dominion are well contented with their position and prospects, and that the wish nearest their hearts is to avail themselves of the franchise and full powers of legislation which they possess, in order to build up, as a portion of the British Empire, institutions of their own choice, by laws of their own making.