

TO HIS EXCELLENCY the Most Honorable Sir Henry Charles Keith Petty-Fitzmaurice, Marquess of Lansdowne, in the County of Somerset, Earl of Wycombe, of Chipping Wycombe, in the County of Bucks, Viscount Caln and Calnstone, in the County of Wilts, and Lord Wycombe, Baron of Chipping Wycombe, in the County of Bucks, in the Peerage of Great Britain; Earl of Kerry and Earl of Shelburne, Viscount Clanmaurice and Fitzmaurice, Baron of Kerry, Lixnaw and Dunkerron, in the Peerage of Ireland; Knight Grand Cross of the most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George; Governor General of Canada.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY :—

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

We rejoice that your Excellency on meeting us again has the pleasing duty to perform of congratulating us on the sufficient harvest of last year and on the prosperity and substantial progress of the Country.

We are glad to learn from Your Excellency that since the suppression of the insurrection in the North-West Territories peace and order have been restored and now prevail. After so serious an outbreak some disquiet and apprehension of the recurrence of those disorders may naturally be expected to linger, and we respectfully concur in Your Excellency's opinion that it will be the duty of your Government to make such precautionary arrangements as will assure the present inhabitants, as well as intending settlers, of efficient protection against all disturbance.

It affords us great pleasure to receive Your Excellency's warm congratulations on the practical completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and on the announcement that it will be open for the daily carriage of passengers and freight from ocean to ocean, in the month of June next. This great work, so important alike to the Empire and the Dominion, cannot fail to increase the trade between British Columbia and the other Provinces, to ensure the early development and settlement of Manitoba and the North-West, and greatly to add to the commercial prosperity of the whole country.

We learn with much interest that should the negotiations between Her Majesty's Government and that of the United States for the appointment of a joint commission to adjust what is known as "The Fishery Question," and to consider the best means of developing our international commerce, fail to secure any satisfactory result, we shall be asked to make provision for the protection of our inshore fisheries by the extension of our present system of marine police.

We thank Your Excellency for informing us that the measures submitted to us last Session for the consolidation of the Statutes and for the introduction into the North-West Territories of a

more simple and economical system for the transfer of land, will be again laid before us for consideration and legislative action, and that the Acts of last Session will be found to be included in the first of those measures.

Your Excellency having been pleased to intimate that we shall also be asked to consider the expediency of improving the judiciary system which obtains in those Territories, we beg leave to assure Your Excellency that the subject shall receive our most careful consideration.

Our attention, which Your Excellency has been pleased to say will be invited to the propriety of amending the law relating to the business of the office of Queen's Printer and of providing for the more satisfactory working of the present system of Government and Parliamentary printing, shall be cheerfully given thereto.

It affords us great satisfaction to be informed that a numerical census of the North West Territories has been taken and that a measure based thereon for the representation of the people in Parliament will be laid before us.

We also thank Your Excellency for informing us that other measures will be laid before us, and that among them will be found Bills for providing for a better mode of trial of claims against the Crown, for regulating Post Office Savings Banks in British Columbia and the North West Territories, for expediting the issue of patents for Indian Lands, for the administration of the rights of the Crown in the foreshores of the Dominion, for the establishment of an Experimental Farm, and for the amendment of the Chinese Immigration Act.

We humbly beg to assure Your Excellency that these several subjects, and the others which may engage our attention, shall receive our best consideration, and, with Your Excellency, we earnestly trust that the result of our deliberations may, under the Divine Blessing, conduce to the advancement and prosperity of Canada.

He said : Ce n'est pas sans hésitation que j'ai accepté de proposer l'adresse en réponse au discours du Trône, car quelque honorable que soit cette tâche, le sentiment de mon insuffisance à m'acquitter de cet important devoir me fait éprouver l'obligation de solliciter l'indulgence de cette honorable Chambre.

Cependant, refuser l'honneur qui m'était offert, aurait été mal comprendre mon devoir et je crois être l'écho de cette Chambre dans l'appréciation que je vais tenter de faire de la politique du gouvernement telle qu'annoncée dans le discours maintenant devant nous.

Je suis heureux de pouvoir me joindre à Son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général pour féliciter le pays de l'abondante moisson de l'année dernière et de la pros-