

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, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c., &c.

**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 expression of gratification at meeting us once more at the commencement of the Parliamentary Session, and of congratulation upon the general prosperity of the country.

We are glad to learn that, although the labours of the husbandman have not been rewarded in some portions of the Dominion by an adequate return, the harvest of last year has, on the whole, been plenteous, while in *Manitoba* and the *North-West Territories* it was one of remarkable abundance.

We are pleased to be informed that the negotiations between Her Majesty's Government and that of the *United States* for the adjustment of what is known as "The Fishery Question," have resulted in a Treaty which, we venture to hope with Your Excellency, may be considered by us as honourable and satisfactory to both nations.

We thank Your Excellency for the assurance that the Treaty, with the papers and correspondence relating thereto, will be laid before us. Any measure to give effect to its provisions will receive our careful consideration.

We learn with interest that the extension and development of our system of railways have not only rendered necessary additional safeguards for life and property, but have given greater frequency to questions in which the interests of rival companies are found to be in conflict, and to require authoritative adjustment; as further legislation appears to be needed for these purposes, any measure submitted to us for the consolidation and improvement of "The Railway Act" will be carefully considered by us.

We thank Your Excellency for informing us that experience has shown that amendments are required to make the provisions of the Act respecting Elections of the Members of the House of Commons more effective and more convenient in their operation. We will carefully consider any measure submitted to us for the amendment of that Statute.

We will willingly consider any measure laid before us for the amendment of the Act respecting Controverted Elections, with a view to the removal of certain questions of interpretation which have arisen and which should be set at rest.

We are pleased to learn that Your Excellency's Government has availed itself of the opportunity afforded by the recess to consider the numerous suggestions which have been made for improving the details of the Act respecting the Electoral Franchise. Any measure submitted to us for the purpose of simplifying the law and greatly lessening the cost of its operation will receive our earnest attention.

Your Excellency having been pleased to inform us that the growth of the *North-West Territories* renders expedient an improvement in the system of government and legislation affecting that portion of the Dominion, any Bill for that purpose laid before us will be earnestly considered.

We will carefully consider any Bill submitted to us to make a larger portion of the modern laws of *England* applicable to the Province of *Manitoba* and to the *North-West Territories*, in regard to matters which are within the control of the Parliament of Canada, but which have not, as yet, been made the subject of Canadian legislation.

Your Excellency may rest assured that all measures laid before us, especially Bills relating to the Judiciary, to the Civil Service Act, and to the audit of the Public Accounts, will receive our earnest attention.