

deepest thankfulness; and I heartily congratulate you on the evidences which surround us of a recovery from the commercial and industrial depression which has so long weighed down the energies of the people.

Our returning prosperity should, I think, direct our attention to the less fortunate circumstances of our fellow-subjects in Ireland where so much destitution prevails, and I invite your consideration of the best means of showing our practical sympathy with their distress.

We have reason to congratulate ourselves on the number of settlers who have, during the past year, come into our North-West from Great Britain and the United States, as well as from the older Provinces of the Dominion. The visit of two members of the Royal Commission on the agricultural distress in the Mother Country, and the favorable report of the tenant farmers who, at the instance of my Government, have examined into the farming capabilities of the Dominion, will, it is believed, largely increase the number of immigrants during the present year. Preparations must be made for their reception, and your attention will be specially called to this subject.

Every effort has been made to hasten the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway from Lake Superior to Red River, and no doubt is entertained that the railway will be opened for traffic between those important points within the time specified in the contracts. Under the authority given by Parliament last Session, nearly one hundred miles, from Red River to the western boundary of Manitoba, has been placed under contract, and tenders are about being asked for for the construction of another hundred miles from the boundary westward. The completion of these two sections will, at an early day, afford railway facilities through two hundred miles of the most fertile land in the North-West. After an exploratory survey of the line from Port Simpson to the Pine River Pass and through the Peace River country, it has been decided to adopt the location of the line to Burrard Inlet, and contracts have been awarded for one hundred and twenty-seven miles of the railway, between Emory's Bar on the Fraser River and Savona's Ferry. This work will be vigorously proceeded with so soon as the spring opens. Its construction will complete the most difficult portion of the Canadian

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Pacific Railway, and secure the connection by steam of the fertile district of Kamloops with the capital of British Columbia.

The adoption of a rigid system of economy in the management of the Inter-colonial Railway has, without impairing the efficiency of its working, effected such a diminution of expense as to warrant the belief that the country will in future be relieved from any considerable burden in connection with its operation.

In consequence of the entire failure of the usual food supply of the Indians in the North-West, a large expenditure has been necessarily incurred to save them from starvation. It is hoped that the efforts which are now being made to settle the several bands on the reserves, and to induce them to betake themselves to the cultivation of the soil, may prevent the necessity of similar calls for relief in the future.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

The Estimates for the ensuing year will be laid before you; they have been prepared with all due regard to economy.

You will be pleased to learn that the effect of the tariff of last Session in the development of the varied industries of the country has, on the whole, been very satisfactory. The experience acquired since it came into operation in March last, has suggested the expediency of some amendments, to which your attention will be directed.

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate;*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

Bills for the better organization of the Civil Service, for the consolidation of the Inland Revenue Laws, and for the amendment of the acts relating to the Dominion Lands, to the Public Works, to the Indians of the North-West, and to the Mounted Police Force, will be laid before you.

The Acts incorporating the Banks of the Dominion will expire next year, and the present would seem a favorable time for a full consideration of our banking system, and of the subject of the currency as connected with that system.

The subject of the laws relating to Insolvency will doubtless engage your attention.