

We are well pleased to be informed that the amount awarded for the Fishery Claims, under the *Washington Treaty*, has been paid by the *United States* and that Her Majesty's Government has arranged with *Canada* and *Newfoundland* for their respective shares of the award; and that we shall receive with pleasure the papers on the subject, which Your Excellency informs us will be submitted to us.

We are aware that the important and rapidly increasing trade between *Canada* and *England*, in live cattle, has been seriously threatened by the appearance, in various parts of the *United States*, of pleuro-pneumonia; and that we are glad to know, that in order to prevent the contagion from spreading to *Canada*, and the consequent interruption of the trade, Your Excellency has caused an Order to be issued under "The Animal Contagious Diseases' Act, 1869," prohibiting the importation, or introduction, into the Dominion of American cattle, for a short period. That we entertain the hope that the disease will be, ere long, extinguished in the *United States*, and the necessity for continuing the prohibition removed; and that our best attention shall be given to any amendment of the Act just referred, to which Your Excellency may cause to be submitted for our consideration.

We are much gratified by the information that Your Excellency's Government has commenced negotiations, with Her Majesty's sanction, for the development of the trade of *Canada* with *France* and *Spain*, and with their respective colonies, and that Your Excellency hopes to be able to lay before us the result of these negotiations during the present Session.

We thank Your Excellency for the assurance that it is the purpose of your Government to press for the most vigorous prosecution of the Canadian *Pacific Railway* and to meet the reasonable expectations of *British Columbia*. That we are sensible that in carrying out this intention, due regard must be had to the financial position of the country, and that we are happy to know that communication by rail has been effected between *Manitoba* and the *United States* system of railways, by the junction at *St. Vincent*, of the *Pembina* Branch of our railway, with the *St. Paul* and *Pacific* Railroad, and to learn that the portion of the main line which extends from *English River* to *Keewatin* is now being placed under contract, and will be energetically pushed to completion in order to secure, as rapidly as is possible, the connection between *Lake Superior* and the great *North-West*.

Any Bill for the amendment and consolidation of the Acts relating to Stamps which may be submitted for our consideration, as well as any measure amending the Act relating to Weights and Measures, shall receive our best attention.

We are aware that the decennial census must be taken in 1881, and we agree with Your Excellency in thinking it expedient that a measure for the purpose should be passed during the present Session, in order to give ample time for the preparation of all the preliminary arrangements, and to ensure the census being taken as accurately and inexpensively as possible, and that in connection with this subject, it may be well to consider the propriety of providing some means for the collection and collation of vital, criminal and general statistics.

We shall not fail respectfully to consider any Bills which Your Excellency may cause to be laid before us for the re-arrangement of some of the Departments of the Government, and also any measures relating to the survey and management of the Dominion Lands, to the Mounted Police, and to the Post Office Department; for the amendment, in some particulars, of the laws relating to Indians, or for the vesting in Her Majesty, for the use of the Dominion, of certain ordnance and admiralty Lands in the Provinces of *Nova Scotia* and *New Brunswick*.

We thank Your Excellency for the assurance that the Estimates for the ensuing year will be laid before us at an early day, and that they have been prepared with as much regard to economy as is compatible with the efficiency of the public service.

We share the regret expressed by Your Excellency that the receipts into the Treasury from ordinary sources continue to be inadequate to meet the charges against the Consolidated Revenue; that we agree with Your Excellency in the opinion that it is not desirable that our finances should longer remain in this condition; and that