

We learn with pleasure that the Legislature of *British Columbia* has passed an Address to Her Majesty, praying for admission into the Union, on the terms and conditions therein stated; we shall give our earnest attention to any papers on this important subject which may be submitted to us; and we hope that we shall find that the terms are so fair as to justify us in passing a similar Address, so that the boundaries of *Canada*, may, at an early day, be extended from the shores of the *Atlantic Ocean*, on the one side, to the shores of the *Pacific* on the other.

We learn that should such an Address be adopted, it will be necessary for us to take steps to secure the early exploration and survey of a route, for an Interoceanic Railway, with a view to its construction in accordance with the terms of Union. We know that the acquisition of the North West Territories throws upon the Government and Parliament of the Dominion the duty of promoting their early settlement by the encouragement of immigration:—And, feeling that this duty can be best discharged by a liberal land policy, and by opening up communication through our own country to *Manitoba*, we shall willingly consider any means proposed for accomplishing those purposes which may be submitted for our consideration.

We notice that Her Majesty's Government has decided upon referring the Fishery question, along with other questions pending between the two countries, to a Joint Commission to be named by Her Majesty's Government and the Government of the *United States*, and that on this Commission *Canada* will be represented; and we trust that this mode of dealing with the various matters in controversy will lead to their satisfactory adjustment. We feel with Your Excellency, that *Canada* urges no demand beyond those to which she is plainly entitled by Treaty and the law of Nations; that she has pushed no claim to an extreme assertion, and only sought to maintain the rights of her own people fairly and firmly, but in a friendly and considerate spirit, and with all due respect to foreign powers and international obligations; and we cordially agree with Your Excellency that the thanks of the country are due to the Admiral on the Station and those under his command, for the valuable and efficient aid which they rendered to our Cruisers during the past season in maintaining order and protecting the inshore Fisheries from encroachment.

Believing with Your Excellency, that the prospect of the adoption of an International Currency, in the present state of Europe, is very remote, we shall be prepared to consider the propriety of assimilating the Currency of the Dominion without further delay.

We shall not fail to give our attention to the extension to *Manitoba*, of the Militia and other Laws of the Dominion, and their adaptation to the present circumstances of that young Province.

We are well pleased to learn from Your Excellency, that the decennial Census will be taken on the third day of April next, and that it is believed that a more thorough and accurate system has been adopted than any that has hitherto obtained; and we respectfully assure Your Excellency that any amendments which may be suggested to the Act of last Session, shall receive our earnest consideration, as shall also any Bill presented to us relating to Parliamentary Elections, Weights and Measures, Insurance Companies, Savings' Banks, and for the Consolidation and amendment of the Inspection Laws.

We thank Your Excellency for having given directions that the Public Accounts shall be laid before us, and we learn with satisfaction that the Revenue for the past year was in excess of what was estimated, and that the prospects for the current year are so encouraging that, notwithstanding the extensive public improvements which are contemplated, we shall probably be able to diminish the taxation of the Country.

We shall respectfully consider the Estimates for the ensuing year which will be submitted to us, and we trust that we shall be of opinion that the supplies which we shall be asked to vote can be granted without inconvenience to the people.

The various and weighty matters which Your Excellency has laid before us will assuredly engage our mature attention, and we unite with Your Excellency in the prayer, that the result of our deliberations may, with the Divine blessing, prove conducive in all respects to the advancement and happiness of the Country.