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regarded by Canadians generally as indispensable, under present conditions, to the well-being of those extensive and promising portions of the Dominion in which it is stationed.

We thank Your Excellency for the intimation that immediately after the prorogation of Parliament Your Excellency's Government communicated through the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba with the Government of that province, in order to ascertain upon what lines the local authorities of Manitoba would be prepared to promote amendments to the Acts respecting education in schools in that province, and whether any arrangement was possible with the Manitoba Government which would render action by the Federal Parliament in this connection unnecessary. We receive with a deep sense of its importance Your Excellency's statement that you regret to say that the advisers of the Lieutenant-Governor have declined to entertain favourably these suggestions, thereby rendering it necessary for Your Excellency's Government, in pursuance of its declared policy, to introduce legislation in regard to this subject. We also thank Your Excellency for the information that the papers will be laid before us.

We are happy to be informed by Your Excellency that the representations of your Government and the suggestions of the Ottawa Conference respecting steamship communication have resulted in an announcement by the Imperial authorities of their willingness to grant a substantial subvention towards the Atlantic portion of the scheme.

We share Your Excellency's trust that this will ensure the successful establishment of a line of steamers between the United Kingdom and Canada, which, in point of speed and equipment, shall fully meet all requirements.

Your Excellency has informed us that your Government have also learned with satisfaction that it is the intention of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to appoint a Committee to consider a proposed Pacific Cable to connect Canada with Australasia. Your Excellency may be assured that we share the gratification with which your advisers welcome these announcements as affording further evidence of the desire of Her Majesty's Government to draw closer to each other and to the motherland the outlying portions of the Queen's Dominions. We thank Your Excellency for stating that the papers on these subjects will also be submitted to us.

We observe with great interest that our attention will be asked to measures intended to provide for the better arming of our militia and the strengthening of Canadian defences.

We are gratified to learn that the growth of population in the North-west Territories, as disclosed by the last enumeration, calls for additional representation in Parliament, and that a Bill for this purpose will be laid before us.

We are happy that Your Excellency is able to inform us that the Commissioners appointed by Great Britain and the United States for the purpose of delimiting the boundary between Alaska and Canada have concluded their labours, that they have signed a joint report for presentation to their respective governments, and that this report will be laid before Parliament in due time.

We are also pleased to hear that at the request of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies a delegate of Your Excellency's Government visited England last summer to confer with the Imperial authorities on the question of Copy-right, and that his report will be laid before us. Your Excellency may be sure that this subject will again receive our earnest attention.

We receive with interest Your Excellency's announcement that we shall also be asked to consider measures for the extension and development of our trade in agricultural products with the United Kingdom and other markets.

Your Excellency may rest assured that these subjects and others which may come before us shall have our earnest consideration, and Your Excellency may safely rely upon our wisdom and prudence under the Divine guidance to discharge with dignity and effect the high trust committed to our care.

After Debate.