

Acting on the advice of my Ministers, I had, previously to the great grief which has fallen upon the nation, tendered an invitation on your behalf to His Royal Highness the Duke of Cornwall and York to conclude his intended visit to Australasia by one to the Dominion of Canada, and I am glad to be able to inform you that His Royal Highness has been pleased to signify his acceptance of the same. I still hope that that visit may not be considered impossible. I have no doubt of the warmth of the welcome with which he will be received.

My Government has learned with great satisfaction of the progress being made with the Pacific Cable scheme, and I trust that nothing may occur to delay its early completion.

Last summer, I made a tour through Canada as far as Dawson City and was everywhere received with unqualified proofs of devotion and loyalty. During my journey, I was, from personal observation, much impressed with the great activity displayed in the development of the mining and agricultural industries of the country, and with the substantial increase in its population. The thrift, energy and law-abiding character of the immigrants are a subject of much congratulation and afford ample proof of their usefulness as citizens of the Dominion.

It gives me great pleasure to note the excellent display made by Canada at the Universal Exposition in Paris. The fine quality and varied character of Canadian natural and industrial products is evidenced by the number of awards won in nearly every class of the competition. It is a remarkable testimony to the effectiveness of our cold storage transportation facilities, that fresh fruit grown in Canada secured a large number of the highest awards. It is extremely gratifying to observe that, as a result of the display of Canadian resources, considerable foreign capital has found its way into Canada for investment and large orders from foreign countries have been received for Canadian goods.

The improvement of the St. Lawrence route continues to engage the very careful attention of my Government. During the past year, ship channels have been widened and deepened, additional lights and buoys have been provided and, in a short time, there will be telegraph and cable communication with Belle Isle. These additional securities will tend to make safer and more efficient than ever our great waterway between the lakes and the Atlantic.

I am glad to observe that the revenue and the general volume of trade continue undiminished, and even show a moderate increase over the very large figures attained during the past year.

Measures will be submitted to you for the better supervision of the export trade in food products, and also in connection with the Post Office, the Pacific Cable and various other subjects.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

The accounts of the past year will be laid before you.

The Estimates for the succeeding year will likewise be placed upon the Table at an early date.

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate :*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

I commend to your earnest consideration the measures to be submitted to you, invoking the Divine blessings upon the important labours on which you are again entering.

His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to retire, and the House of Commons withdrew.