

---

desire, in addressing, for the first time, the Parliament of *Canada*, to express the satisfaction he feels in resorting to our advice and assistance, as well as his deep sense of his own good fortune in being permitted to associate himself with us in our labours and aspirations for the welfare of this Dominion; and that we rejoice with His Excellency, to think that his assumption of office should have taken place at a period when the prospects of the country appear so full of promise, when peace and amity prevail amongst all neighbouring nations, and when so many indications are afforded of the success with which *Canada* herself is consolidating her political unity and developing her material resources.

2. That we thank His Excellency for informing us, that in accordance with the decision of Parliament, and to carry into effect the legislation of last Session, His Excellency has caused a Charter to be granted to a body of Canadian capitalists for the construction of the *Pacific* Railway; that the Company now formed has given assurances that this great work will be vigorously prosecuted; that a favorable state of the money market in England affords every hope that satisfactory arrangements may be made for the required capital; and that the papers and correspondence relating to this subject will be laid before us.

3. That we are glad to be informed, that during the past year the surveys for the improvement and extension of our system of Canals, for which appropriations were made last Session, have been in active preparation; that the plans and specifications for the enlargement of the *Welland* and the construction of the *Baie Verte* Canals have been completed, so that the works can now be put under contract:—and that His Excellency is assured that the surveys for the *St. Lawrence* Canals will be finished in time to commence the works at the beginning of next year, which will insure the completion of all these great undertakings at the same period.

4. That we feel with His Excellency, that it is gratifying to know that the efforts made to encourage immigration have met with a great measure of success, and that the numbers seeking a home in *Canada* have been greatly augmented during the last year: and that His Excellency may depend upon our readiness to make ample provision for the steadily increasing stream of settlers that may hereafter be annually expected to add to the population, wealth and strength of the Dominion.

5. That we agree with His Excellency, that as the compilation of the first Census of the Dominion approaches completion, this would, therefore, seem a fitting time to consider the expediency of providing for the establishment of a proper system for the accurate collection and scientific arrangement of statistical information; and that we shall not fail to give this subject our attention.

6. That we are fully aware, that it is important that provision should be made for the consolidation and amendment of the Laws, now in force in the several Provinces, relating to the representation of the people in Parliament: and that any measure for this purpose, and for the trial of Controverted Elections, which may be submitted to us, shall receive our most attentive consideration.

7. That our earnest attention will be given to any measures brought before us for the amendment of the Laws relating to Pilots, to Salvage, and to the Trinity Houses of *Montreal* and *Quebec*, as well as for the improvement of the Laws generally affecting our Merchant Shipping.

8. That being informed by His Excellency, that experience has shown that the duties now performed in the Offices of the Secretary of State, and the Secretary for the Provinces, may be readjusted with advantage to the public service, we shall respectfully consider any Bill which His Excellency may cause to be laid before us for that purpose: as we shall also any Bills presented to us relating to the Criminal Law, to Weights and Measures, and to the amendment and consolidation of the Inspection Laws.

9. That we thank His Excellency for having given directions that the accounts of the past, and of the first six months of the present financial year, shall be laid before us without delay. That we are gratified to learn that the finances of the Dominion are in a