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We also thank Your Excellency for informing us that, in accordance with the announcement made during the last Session, Parliament has been summoned somewhat in advance of the usual period.

We heartily share Your Excellency's feeling that the bountiful harvest with which Canada has been blessed is a cause for the deepest thankfulness to the Giver of all good.

We rejoice that Your Excellency is able to congratulate us upon the evidence of increased activity in the various branches of commerce and industry.

We are gratified to hear that several such indications have come under your personal observation during a tour made recently in the North-west Territories and British Columbia, and that, in particular, Your Excellency noticed the extension of mining enterprise in British Columbia, where the vast mineral resources are in certain localities being now developed and utilized upon something like an adequate scale.

It affords us much pleasure to hear that a special feature of the same tour consisted in the opportunities obtained for visiting a number of the Indian Reservations and also the Indian Industrial Schools. We are glad to learn that on the former Your Excellency was received with hearty demonstrations of loyalty and good-will, while in connection with the latter the proofs of proficiency and intelligence on the part of the children were highly encouraging.

We are glad to be informed that as to the work of the Indian Department as a whole, the manner in which it is directed and administered appears to be very satisfactory.

We agree with Your Excellency that a reference to these topics would be incomplete without an allusion to the valuable services of the North-West Mounted Police, and we respectfully note Your Excellency's opinion that that force may justly be 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.