

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 we are pleased to learn that Your 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 we rejoice to be informed will insure the completion of all these great undertakings at the same period.

We are gratified to hear 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. We shall readily concur in such measures as shall 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.

We are thankful to learn that the first Census of the Dominion approaches completion, and we concur with your Excellency in the opinion that this would, therefore, seem to be a fitting time to provide for the establishment of a proper system for the accurate collection and scientific arrangement of statistical information. We shall cheerfully give our attention to this important subject.

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 we assure your Excellency 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.

Our earnest attention will be given to any measure which Your Excellency may cause to be 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.

We concur with Your Excellency, in opinion 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; and we

shall respectfully consider any Bill on the subject which Your Excellency may cause to be laid before us; 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.

We are duly sensible that many of the subjects which Your Excellency has enumerated are of the greatest importance. We are grateful to Your Excellency, in commending them to our consideration, for the expression of your full confidence in our patriotism and wisdom, and we trust with Your Excellency that a Gracious Providence may guide our counsels in whatever way may best promote the happiness of the people of Canada, and the welfare of the Empire at large.

Hon. Mr. VIDAL then continued:—Before touching upon the subject matters mentioned in the Address I cannot refrain from referring for a moment to the discussion that occurred on Friday last. I trust that my honorable friend from Riviere Ouelle has obtained the information which he desired. Certainly so far as I am concerned the delay has not been without benefit for I have been able to obtain some information from the same source.

Hon. Mr. LÉVELLIER DE ST. JUST.—I hope the honorable gentleman who is new to this House will not depart from the ordinary tone with which we are familiar. I will take no lesson from the honorable gentleman.

Hon. Mr. VIDAL—I would not presume for a moment to dictate to the honorable gentleman. I am quite aware what becomes me as a junior member of this august assembly; but I cannot see any impropriety in referring to the subject which the honorable gentlemen himself introduced. With respect to the same statements to which he alluded, I find that the whole sting is taken from them by the fact that Sir Hugh Allan has no interest whatever in the paper from which the quotations were made.

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON.—Is any one prepared to prove that?

Hon. Mr. VIDAL.—I find the fact stated on the authority of the same source from which the member for Riviere Ouelle quoted—the public press.

Hon. Mr. LÉVELLIER DE ST. JUST.—There is no member for Riviere Ouelle.

Hon. Mr. VIDAL.—I beg the honorable gentleman's pardon, but I thought I was right in so styling him. But I find that Sir Hugh Allan is not responsible legally or morally for what appears in the paper in question.