

We are glad that Your Excellency had an opportunity before your departure from *Canada* of visiting the Province of *Manitoba* and a portion of the outside Territories, which visit Your Excellency accomplished during last Autumn. Your Excellency has now had the advantage of visiting every Province in the Dominion during the term of your government of *Canada*.

We are happy to be informed that the arbitration on the Fishery Claims, under the terms of the *Washington Treaty*, has been concluded, and that an award has been made by the Commission of \$5,500,000 as compensation to *Canada* and *Newfoundland* for the use of their fisheries during the term of the present treaty. Though this amount is much less than that claimed by Your Excellency's Government, we agree with Your Excellency that having assented to the creation of the tribunal for the determination of their value, we are bound loyally to assent to the decision given.

We rejoice to know that the exhibition of Canadian manufactures and products at *Sydney, New South Wales*, was successfully carried out. We trust that the result will be the opening up of a new market for Canadian goods even in so remote a region as the Australasian colonies, shipments of Canadian productions having already been made. Though the expenditure may exceed the estimate, we doubt not the cost to *Canada* will be amply repaid by the extension of her trade.

It gives us great pleasure so learn that preparations have been uninterruptedly carried on, during the last six months, for securing an ample but select exhibition of *Canada's* products and manufactures at the great exhibition to be held at *Paris* during the current year. We are prepared to concur in any further grant that may be required to meet the expenditure. That His Royal Highness the Prince of *Wales*, as Chairman of the British Commissioners, has assigned a prominent place to *Canada* in one of the main Towers, where a Canadian Trophy is now being erected, we are also very glad to hear.

We regret to know that a very disastrous fire occurred in June last in the City of *St. John*, which caused the destruction of a large portion of the City, including all the public buildings owned by the Dominion Government. Your Excellency's Government having deemed it necessary to contribute \$20,000 to assist in relieving the immediate wants of the people who were rendered destitute by so appalling a calamity, and Your Excellency having also sanctioned the appropriation of some public money, with which to commence the erection of new buildings for the public business, we shall be ready to do our part towards confirming those acts in the usual way.

We are glad to learn from Your Excellency that during last summer Your Excellency's Commissioners made another Treaty with the *Blackfeet, Blood* and *Piegan* Indians, by which the Indian title is extinguished over a territory of 51,000 square miles west of Treaty No. 4, and south of Treaty No. 6, that the Treaty has been made on terms nearly the same as those under Treaty No. 6, though somewhat less onerous; and that the entire territory west of *Lake Superior* to the *Rocky Mountains*, and from the boundary nearly to the 55th degree of North latitude, embracing about 450,000 square miles has now been acquired by peaceful negotiation with the native tribes, who place implicit faith in the honour and justice of the British Crown.

We thank Your Excellency for the important information that early in the past summer a large body of Indians, under *Sitting Bull*, from the *United States*, crossed into British territory to escape from the *United States* troops, and have since remained on the Canadian side, and that the *United States* Government made a friendly but unsuccessful attempt to induce these Indians to return to their reservations. We agree with Your Excellency in hoping that such arrangements may yet be made as may lead to their permanent and peaceful settlement, and thus relieve *Canada* of a source of uneasiness and a heavy expenditure.

It affords us great satisfaction to be informed that the Surveys of the *Pacific Railway* have been pressed to completion during the past season; that a complete instrumental survey of the route, by the valleys of the *North Thompson* and *Lower Fraser* Rivers, has been made, with a few to ascertain definitely whether that route presents more favorable features than the routes already surveyed to *Dean Inlet* and *Bute Inlet* respectively; and that it is believed that the additional information now obtained will