

CANADA.

of the Legislature, on the subject of the constitution of the Legislative Council, transmitted by me at the close of the last session of the Provincial Parliament, in order that they might be laid at the foot of the throne.

I recommend to your consideration the passing of a law for bringing into early operation the Act of last session which extends the elective franchise, in order that constitutional expression of opinion may be obtained as speedily as possible under the system of representation recently established, on the various important questions on which legislation is required.

Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly,

The public accounts for the past year, and the estimates for the present year, will be submitted to you without delay, and I rely with confidence on your willingness to make the necessary provision for the exigencies of the Government.

The prosperous condition of the revenue may suggest to you the propriety of making such reductions in the tariff as may be compatible with security to the public creditor, and efficiency in the public service.

Honourable Gentlemen and Gentlemen,

During my sojourn in England I was much struck by the proofs which I received from all quarters of increasing interest in Canadian affairs, and I trust that my acquaintance with the province, derived from long residence within it, may have enabled me to render some service, in spreading more widely a knowledge of its resources, and of the feelings of the inhabitants.

Although a state of warfare has a necessary tendency to restrict operations, involving large expenditures of capital, I feel confident that the credit of Canada has attained a position in English opinion which it never before achieved, and that to enable you to retain it nothing is required but prudence in your undertakings, and the maintenance of the high character for fidelity to pecuniary engagements which the province has at all times borne.

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To his Excellency the Right Hon. James Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, Knight of the most Ancient and most Noble Order of the Thistle, Governor General of British North America, and Captain General and Governor-in-Chief in and over the provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the Island of Prince Edward, and Vice Admiral of the same, &c. &c.

May it please your Excellency,

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Council of Canada in Provincial Parliament assembled, respectfully thank your Excellency for your gracious speech from the throne at the opening of the present session.

We regret the serious loss which the province has sustained during the recess in the destruction by fire of the Houses of Parliament, and of the building which was subsequently secured for the temporary occupation of the Legislature; and we feel satisfied that the best arrangements practicable under the circumstances have been made for our accommodation.

We assure your Excellency that we do heartily respond to the manifestations of loyalty to our Sovereign and sympathy with the parent state, which have been so general throughout the province at this conjuncture, when Her most Gracious Majesty the Queen, having failed in her anxious and protracted endeavours to preserve for her people the blessings of peace, has felt herself called upon by regard for an ally, the integrity and independence of whose empire have been recognized as essential to the peace of Europe by the sympathies of her people, with right against wrong, and from a desire to avert from her dominions most injurious consequences, to take up arms in conjunction with the Emperor of the French for the defence of the Sultan; and we agree with your Excellency in thinking that the cordial co-operation of England and France in this war is well calculated to call forth the sympathies of the inhabitants of a country peopled, mainly, by the descendants of those two powerful empires.

We learn with pleasure that your Excellency was honoured during your recent visit to England by the Queen's commands to endeavour to effect the settlement of various important questions bearing upon the interests of the British North American Provinces, which had been long pending between the Government of Great Britain and the United States, and that your Excellency accordingly proceeded to Washington, where, after frank discussion with the authorities of the United States, you were enabled to conclude a treaty which now awaits ratification, upon terms which it is your Excellency's firm conviction will prove in the highest degree advantageous to the colonies generally, as well as to the United States. We beg leave to assure your Excellency that any measure to give effect to that treaty, which may be submitted for our approval, will receive our attentive consideration.