

Your immediate predecessor's administration was rendered illustrious by the Union of the Colonies and the consequent consolidation of British power on this Continent, as well as by the inauguration of that important work, the Intercolonial Railway, and by considerable commercial extension and increased prosperity.

With all faith in Your Excellency's enlightened judgment, energy, and desire to promote the interests of the Empire, there yet remains in measures for promoting emigration, facilitating communications, cheapening the cost of food to the people of the British Isles, and the extension of commercial relations, enough to render your administration far more illustrious, and by the completion of that truly Imperial work, the Ottawa and Lake Huron Navigation, mark an era in the history of British America, and not the least important in the annals of the Empire.

We are happy to welcome your Excellency and Lady Young, to congratulate you on your safe arrival, and trust that your residence in Canada will be as productive of as much happiness as your arrival has been of satisfaction to Your Excellency's

Obedient Servants,

Signed on behalf of the Council of the Board of Trade,

JAS. SKEAD, *President.*

The Council in placing before the Board of Trade this Report of its proceedings for the past three years, see no reason to depart from the opinion of their predecessors in 1865—although the political position of the British North American Colonies have undergone a change in the interim, their material interests remain unaltered, and those interests lie in the direction of Free Trade.

Since the last Report was submitted, one of the great projects for consolidating the power of the British Empire on this continent, and developing the resources of its possessions—THE INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY—has become *une fait accompli*. There yet remains the project of Canal enlargement and extension, and that of making an approach to open the British Territory between Canada and the Pacific—Colonization and Commerce.

It is to be feared that the public mind of the people of British North America has not been sufficiently informed on those great questions to warrant the assumption that any project having for its object their direct completion would be entertained; but the Council feel that they owe to themselves and the public the duty of directing attention to the issues involved.

It is known to every man in British North America, that Canada is inhabited by a sparse population, totally insufficient to develop her own resources—that she has failed to attract any great amount of emigration to her shores—that between her and the Pacific a territory of over 500,000 square miles in