

settlements adjoining the Province on the west, have also on various occasions expressed a desire for annexation. It has, therefore, been considered expedient to take steps to enlarge the boundaries, and a Bill designed to give effect to this proposal is at present before Parliament. The new boundaries, as contemplated by the provisions of that measure, will extend westerly of Winnipeg 189 miles, including the settlements referred to, northerly 264 miles from the International boundary, and easterly to the western limit of the Province of Ontario, wherever that may be.

#### NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.

At the suggestion of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West, an Order in Council was passed on the 7th April last, authorizing the erection, in accordance with the provisions in that behalf of the North-West Territories Act, of three Electoral Districts—one consisting of what is known as the Prince Albert Settlement, and two in the section of the territories adjoining the Province of Manitoba on the west—with a view to the election of three gentlemen to represent the same in the North-West Council. On the 13th November, His Honour issued a proclamation setting apart the several districts, defining their boundaries, and ordering elections to be held. The portions of the proclamation having reference to the districts adjoining Manitoba will of course be inoperative when the proposed extension of the limits of that Province comes into force.

His Honour reports that he did not summon the usual meeting of his Council last autumn, on account of some doubts he entertained as to the legislative powers which that body might possess by virtue of the Order in Council of the 11th May, 1877, passed under an Act which was superseded last year by that now in force.

Your Excellency will be pleased to learn that the White and Half-breed population of the Territories have throughout the past season enjoyed complete immunity from contagious and epidemic diseases, that their crops have been good, that commerce has been brisk, and that altogether they have experienced during the year the inestimable advantages of peace, confidence and prosperity.

On the urgent representations of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor an Order in Council was passed on the 4th November last, granting a sum not exceeding \$4,000, out of the appropriation for the current year for the Government of the North-West, as aid in behalf of schools in the Territories. So far the expense of paying teachers, building school-houses, etc., had been borne entirely by the settlers, who had established schools at various points from the Manitoba boundary as far west as Edmonton. The request for aid to the struggling settlements was reasonable; and until sales of school lands can be made to advantage, assistance can only be rendered from the appropriation voted annually by Parliament. The principle on which it was decided to distribute the amount set aside for the purpose