

We feel also, with Your Excellency, that we have reason to congratulate ourselves on the number of settlers who have during the past year come into our *North-West* from *Great Britain* and the *United States*, as well as from the older Provinces of the Dominion. The visit of two members of the Royal Commission on the agricultural distress in the Mother Country, and the favourable report of the tenant farmers who, at the instance of Your Excellency's Government, have examined into the capabilities of the Dominion, will, we are willing to believe, largely increase the number of immigrants during the present year. Preparations must be made for their reception, and our attention will be given to this subject, to which Your Excellency has been pleased to say it will be specially called.

It gives us great pleasure to learn from Your Excellency that every effort has been made to hasten the construction of the Canadian *Pacific* Railway from *Lake Superior* to *Red River*, and that no doubt is entertained that the Railway will be opened for traffic between those important points within the time specified in the contracts. We are glad to learn, also, that under the authority given by Parliament last Session, nearly one hundred miles from *Red River* to the western boundary of *Manitoba* has been placed under contract, and tenders are about being asked for, for the construction of another hundred miles from the boundary westward, and that the completion of these two sections will at an early day afford railway facilities through two hundred miles of the most fertile land in the *North-West*. We thank Your Excellency for informing us that after an exploratory survey of the line from *Port Simpson* to the *Pine River Pass*, and through the *Peace River* country, it has been decided to adopt the location of the line to *Burrard Inlet*, and contracts have been awarded for one hundred and twenty-seven miles of the Railway between *Emory's Bar*, on *Fraser River*, and *Savona's Ferry*, and that this work will be vigorously proceeded with so soon as the Spring opens. We concur with Your Excellency in the opinion that its construction will complete the most difficult portion of the Canadian *Pacific* Railway and secure the connection by steam of the fertile district of *Kamloops* with the capital of *British Columbia*.

It affords us great satisfaction to be informed by Your Excellency that the adoption of a rigid system of economy in the management of the Intercolonial Railway has, without impairing the efficiency of its working, effected such a diminution of expense as to warrant the belief that the country will in future be relieved from any considerable burden in connection with its operation.

We regret to learn from Your Excellency that, in consequence of the entire failure of the usual food supply of the Indians in the *North-West*, a large expenditure has been necessarily incurred to save them from starvation. We hope that the efforts which are now being made to settle the several bands on the reserves, and induce them to take themselves to the cultivation of the soil, may prevent the necessity of similar calls for relief in future.

We shall not fail to give our best attention to the Bills for the better organization of the Civil Service, for the consolidation of the Inland Revenue laws and for the amendment of the Acts relating to the Dominion lands, to the Public Works, to the Indians of the *North-West*, and to the Mounted Police Force, which Your Excellency has been pleased to say will be laid before us.

We agree in opinion with Your Excellency, that as the Acts incorporating the Banks of the Dominion will expire next year, the present would seem a favourable time for a full consideration of our Banking system and of the subject of the currency as connected with that system.

The subject of the laws relating to Insolvency will also doubtless engage our attention.

With Your Excellency, we are of opinion that the increasing foreign trade of Canada, and the prospect that Her Majesty's Government will enter ere long into negotiations with foreign nations on the subject of their trade and commercial relations, demand our closest attention and watchfulness, while the rapid development of the Dominion is continually giving rise to important matters requiring the support and action of the Imperial Government. We thank Your Excellency for stating