

We are much gratified to be informed that during the 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 honor and justice of the British Crown.

We learn with much interest 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. And we agree with Your Excellency, in hoping that such arrangements may yet be made as may lead to their permanent and peaceful return, and thus relieve *Canada* of a source of uneasiness and a heavy expenditure.

We are well pleased to know 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 view 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 enable Your Excellency's Government to determine which route is the most advantageous from *Tête Jaune Cache* to the sea; and we thank Your Excellency for the promise that full information will be laid before us at an early day, of the season's work in this and other directions.

We receive with much pleasure Your Excellency's congratulations on the abundant harvest reaped in all quarters of the Dominion, and that under this and other influences there has been some improvement in the Revenue returns, thus indicating, as we trust with Your Excellency, that the commercial depression that afflicted *Canada* in common with other countries, is passing away.

We thank Your Excellency for informing us that your attention having been called to some imperfections in the existing system of auditing the Public Accounts, a measure providing for a more thorough and effective supervision will be submitted for our consideration.

We share with Your Excellency the conviction, that the prospect of obtaining, at an early day, greater facilities for reaching the North-Western Territories and the Province of *Manitoba*, is sure to attract a larger number of settlers every year, and that as much of the prosperity of the Dominion depends on the rapid settlement of the fertile lands in those Territories, it is desirable and necessary to facilitate such settlement as much as possible; and we are pleased to learn, that in order to affect this, measures will be submitted for our consideration concerning the registration of titles, the enactment of a Homestead Law, and the promotion of railway enterprise in districts not touched by the *Canada Pacific* Railway.

We will give our best attention to any measure submitted to us for better securing the Independence of Parliament.

Being informed by Your Excellency that experience has shown that certain changes may advantageously be made in the departmental arrangements existing at present, we shall respectfully consider any Bill submitted to us for accomplishing this purpose, without increasing the expenditure or the number of Departments.

We feel with Your Excellency that it is very desirable there should be uniform legislation in all the Provinces respecting the traffic in spirituous liquors, and being aware that hitherto that trade has been regulated by Provincial laws, or laws existing before the Confederation of the Provinces, although there has been lately a conflict of authority as to the jurisdiction of the local authorities, we shall