

A measure will be laid before you, for amending and simplifying the whole system of management of our Public Lands, and facilitating their occupation by industrious settlers.

I am glad to state that the number of Emigrants in the course of the year just ended, was considerably in excess of that of the previous year.

A large extent of territory in different parts of the Province has been surveyed for the purpose of immediate occupation. Experience has proved that the opening of Roads through the forest has much facilitated the settlement of our wild lands.

By making these roads on a system at once uniform and comprehensive, there is every reason to expect the best results from the aid granted by the legislature.

The subject of the Fisheries in both sections of the Province, is one which deserves your attention, as I believe that they may be so dealt with, as hereafter to become a source of Revenue.

I congratulate you on the continued success of the Canadian Line of Steamers. They have already placed our intercourse with Europe on a new footing, and I look forward with pleasure to the establishment of a Weekly Line to the St. Lawrence, during the next Summer.

I recommend to your notice the increasing value of the Lake Commerce of Canada. Our trade with Chicago and the Western States promises to be important alike to the Upper and the Lower sections of the Province.

During the recess, a correspondence has taken place with the Imperial Government and with the Sister Colonies of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, in which the importance to Imperial interests of an Intercolonial Railway and Military Road to Halifax has been pressed on the attention of the Home Government. This correspondence I will cause to be submitted for your consideration.

As this Province has already gone to the utmost limit of pecuniary aid to the Grand Trunk Railway Company, it affords me pleasure to state my confident expectation that such aid will prove sufficient to secure the advantages promised by the completion of its works; and I doubt not that the community at large are fully sensible of the benefits derived from this great and important undertaking."

The above contains allusion to a sufficient number of subjects to occupy, if properly discussed, the attention of our legislature during the present Session, and in view of these questions coming up for discussion, it may not be out of place to refer briefly to the commercial reforms demanded by the country. That the Commercial Law of Lower Canada is, in many respects, preferable to that of the Upper Province, is admitted by all who are acquainted with the Laws of both Provinces, and we doubt not in any change proposed, the alterations will have reference principally to the Laws of Upper Canada. The new Statute regulating recovery on Bills of Exchange and Promissory Notes comes into force on the 1st of July, and its further postponement in the present state of the country may be deemed advisable.

The Law which authorizes the arrest and imprisonment of a debtor on the oath of a creditor, calls loudly for revision. Public opinion, however, is divided on this subject, and while many demand the total repeal of the law, except in cases of fraud, others urge that the law ought to authorize on a judge's warrant the arrest of the debtor who is about to leave the Province