

We thankfully receive Your Excellency's congratulations on the Legislative sanction which has been given by the Imperial Parliament to the Act of Union, under the provisions of which we are now assembled and which has laid the foundation of a new Nationality, which we trust and believe, with Your Excellency, will, ere long, extend its bounds from the *Atlantic* to the *Pacific* Ocean.

We feel great satisfaction in knowing that in the discussions which preceded the introduction of this measure in the Imperial Parliament, between the Members of Her Majesty's Government, on the one side, and the Delegates, who represented the Provinces now united, on the other,—it was apparent to all those who took part in those Conferences, that, while Her Majesty's Ministers considered and pressed the principle of Union, as a subject of great Imperial interest, they allowed to the Provincial Representatives every freedom in arranging the mode in which that principle should be applied.

We recognize with pleasure, that in a similar spirit of respect for our privileges, as a free and self-governing People, the Act of Union, as adopted by the Imperial Parliament, imposes the duty and confers upon us the right of reducing to practice the system of Government which it has called into existence, of consolidating its institutions, harmonizing its administrative details, and of making such legislative provisions as will secure to a constitution, in some respects novel, a full, fair and unprejudiced trial.

We shall consider, with respectful attention, any measures which, with the design of effecting these objects, Your Excellency shall cause to be laid before us, for the amendment and assimilation of the Laws now existing in the several Provinces, relating to Currency, Customs, Excise, and Revenue generally,—for the adoption of a uniform Postal System,—for the proper management and maintenance of the Public Works and Properties of the Dominion,—for the adoption of a well considered scheme of Militia Organization and Defence,—for the proper administration of Indian affairs,—for the introduction of uniform Laws respecting Patents of Invention and Discovery,—the Naturalization of Aliens,—and the assimilation of the Criminal Law and the Laws relating to Bankruptcy and Insolvency.

We are happy to learn that a measure will also be submitted to us for the performance of the duty imposed upon *Canada*, under the terms of the Union Act, of immediately constructing the Intercolonial Railway.

We feel, with Your Excellency, that this great work will add a practical and physical connection to the legislative bond which now unites the Provinces composing the Dominion, and that the liberality with which the guarantee for the cost of its construction was given by the Imperial Parliament is a new proof of the hearty interest felt by the British people in our prosperity.

We shall give our attentive consideration to any communication Your Excellency may see fit to make to us on the important subject of Western Territorial extension, and the best means to be adopted for the protection and development of our Fisheries and Marine Interests.

We shall respectfully consider any measures defining the privileges of Parliament, and for the establishment of uniform laws relating to Elections, and the trial of Controverted Elections which Your Excellency may cause to be laid before us.

We learn with great pleasure that the general organization and efficiency of the Volunteers and Militia have been greatly improved within the last Year, and that the whole Volunteer Force of *Ontario* and *Quebec* is already, by the liberality of the Imperial Government, armed with the breech-loading Rifle.

We rejoice that Your Excellency is able to congratulate us on the abundant harvest with which it has pleased Providence to bless the country, and on the general prosperity of the Dominion.

We are proud to know that our new nationality enters on its course backed by the moral support—the material aid—and the most ardent good wishes of the Mother Country, and that within our own borders, peace, security, and prosperity prevail: and that with Your Excellency, we fervently pray that our aspirations may be directed to such high and patriotic objects, and that we may be inspired with such a spirit of moderation and wisdom, as will cause us to render the great work of Union which has been achieved, a blessing to ourselves and our posterity, and a fresh starting point in the moral, political, and material advancement of the people of *Canada*.