

wants of the people who were rendered destitute by so appalling a calamity, and Your Excellency having also sanctioned the appropriation of some public money, with which to commence the erection of new buildings for the public business, we shall be ready to do our part towards confirming those acts in the usual way.

We are glad to learn from Your Excellency that during 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 honour and justice of the British Crown.

We thank Your Excellency for the important information 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. We agree with Your Excellency in hoping that such arrangements may yet be made as may lead to their permanent and peaceful settlement, and thus relieve *Canada* of a source of uneasiness and a heavy expenditure.

It affords us great satisfaction to be informed 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 favourable 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. 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 accept with thankfulness Your Excellency's congratulations on the abundant harvest reaped in all quarters of the Dominion; and we rejoice with your Excellency, that under this and other influences there has been some improvement in the Revenue returns, thus indicating, we also trust, that the commercial depression that has so long afflicted *Canada*, in common with other countries, is passing away.

Your Excellency having been pleased to inform us that your attention has been called to some imperfections in the existing system of auditing the Public Accounts, and that a measure providing for their more thorough and effective supervision will be submitted for our consideration, we beg leave to say that we shall not fail carefully to consider such measure.

We agree with Your Excellency in thinking 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. We beg leave to assure Your Excellency that our most earnest and careful attention will be given to the measures which Your Excellency has been pleased to inform us will, in order to effect this, be submitted for our consideration concerning the registration of titles, the enactment of Homestead Law, and the promotion of Railway enterprise in districts not touched by the *Canada Pacific* Railway.

We shall also carefully consider the measure for better securing the independence of Parliament, to which Your Excellency has been pleased to inform us that our attention will be called.

We thank Your Excellency for drawing our attention to the fact that experience has shown that certain changes may advantageously be made in the departmental ar-