

the year the troops surmounted the difficulties of the march with energy and success, thus proving not only their own discipline and endurance, but also the value of the route through our own Territory. The accounts of the expenditure occasioned by this expedition will be laid before you, and you will be requested to pass a Bill to indemnify the Government.

A copy of the Treaty made at Washington last year, between Her Majesty the Queen and the *United States of America*, in which the Dominion has so great an interest, will be laid before you. So much of the papers and of the completed correspondence as can be made public without injury to the interests of the Empire or of *Canada*, will also be at once submitted for your information, and your attention will be invited to this important subject.

A conference was held at *Ottawa* in September last, on the subject of Immigration, at which the Government of the Dominion, as well as those of every Province, were represented. A scheme for joint and several action was provisionally arranged, to which I invite your attention. I do not doubt that you will be inclined to make ample provisions for the encouragement of Immigration, with the maintenance and extension of which the development of the vast natural resources of *Canada* is so vitally interwoven.

Since last Session the union of *British Columbia* with *Canada* has been happily consummated, and her Representatives now take part in your deliberations.

In order to open up and settle the fertile Territories of the North West, and to link *British Columbia* therewith, it will be necessary for you to make provision for the construction of a Railway to the *Pacific Ocean*, in conformity with the terms of Her Majesty's Order in Council, uniting *British Columbia* with the Dominion. An appropriation was made in the last Session for the preliminary Survey of the route for this Railway. The work has been diligently prosecuted, and a report of the progress achieved will be laid before you.

You will, I trust, concur with me in thinking that the long contemplated improvement and extension of our system of Canals ought to be vigorously prosecuted. The rapid increase in the trade of *Canada*, and the importance of competing for, and accommodating the commerce of the Great West, render it necessary that the means of transport by water should be cheapened and facilitated. I have to request your serious consideration of this subject, and in connection with it, the expediency of providing a direct water communication between the Gulf of *St. Lawrence* and the *Bay of Fundy*.

The decennial Census having been taken last year, the duty of re-adjusting the representation in Parliament of the four Provinces originally constituting the Dominion, devolves upon you now, according to the terms of The Union Act. A measure for the purpose will accordingly be submitted for your consideration.

Among other measures, Bills will be presented to you relating to the Judges of Superior Courts,—to the regulation and management of the Public Lands and Mines of the Dominion in *Manitoba* and the *North-West Territories*,—and for the amendment of the laws relating to the Public Health.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

The Accounts of the past year will at once be laid before you, and likewise a statement of the Receipts and Expenditure of the current year, up to the close of the last month.

It is gratifying to me to be able to announce to you that the revenue for the past, as well as that for the current year, will be considerably in excess of what was estimated, and that consequently there is no reason to apprehend embarrassment from the immediate commencement of the contemplated public improvements.

The Estimates for the ensuing year will be submitted to you, and I trust that you will be of opinion that the supplies which my Government will ask you to vote for the service of Her Majesty, can be granted without inconvenience to Her *Canadian* subjects.

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate, and  
Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

I have all the more satisfaction in recurring to your counsel and assistance at this