

The creation of a Court of Appeal under the powers conferred upon you by the Union Act, is a matter deserving your attention. A measure will be submitted to you for the establishment of such a Court, and for conferring upon it certain original jurisdiction.

The year 1871 is that in which the next decennial census is fixed by law to take place. As there are different laws on the subject in the several Provinces, it will be necessary to pass a General Act to establish an uniform and accurate system throughout the Dominion. Steps have already been taken to secure the co-operation of *Newfoundland* and *Prince Edward Island*; and, I trust, a Census upon one system will be made simultaneously in all Her Majesty's British North American Possessions. I need not expatiate on the importance of the information which the tables of the Census are calculated to afford, as, in addition to their interest and value on general grounds; it must be recollected that upon them depends the readjustment of the Parliamentary representation.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons,—*

I have directed that the accounts of the last year shall be laid before you. The Estimates for the present financial year will also be submitted. They have been framed with every regard to economy, compatible with the efficiency of the Public Service; and you will, I trust, be of opinion that the Finances are in a satisfactory state, and that the people can, without inconvenience, afford, for the service of Her Majesty, the supplies which it will be the duty of my Government to ask you to vote.

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate,*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons,—*

The Act respecting the Militia and Defence of the Dominion, has not failed to engage my attention. The high spirit and loyalty of the people are placed in a clear light by the fact that the Active Militia have, voluntarily, come forward largely in excess of the quota required, as well as by the zealous attendance of the various Corps at the annual training in the camps, and by the promptness with which they assembled in force, at the call of duty, on more than one occasion, when Fenian Marauders threatened the peace of the Country.

I have observed, with great satisfaction, the efforts which have been made in several of the Provinces of the Dominion to foster and encourage immigration to our shores. The continued progress of great public works, in many portions of the Country, will afford the opportunity of early employment to intending immigrants, and I look forward with confidence to the addition of a large and valuable class of settlers to our population during the coming season.

During the Summer and Autumn, I had the opportunity of visiting different parts of the Dominion. I proceeded first to *Quebec*, thence to the Maritime Provinces; and at *Halifax*, I had the honor of receiving His Royal Highness Prince *Arthur*. Subsequently, I attended His Royal Highness in a tour through the Province of *Ontario*. Everywhere the great capabilities of the Country, and the proofs of vigorous industry made themselves apparent, and it became my pleasing duty to report to Her Majesty's Government, as the result of my observations, that the inhabitants of the Dominion are well contented with their position and prospects, and that the wish nearest their hearts, is to avail themselves of the franchises and full powers of legislation, which they possess, in order to build up, as a portion of the British Empire, institutions of their own choice, by laws of their own making.

I now leave you to the labors of the Session, with earnest aspirations for your complete success.

---

On motion of the Honorable Sir *John A. Macdonald*, seconded by the Honorable Sir *George E. Cartier*,