

Who being come with their Speaker,
His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to open the Session by a gracious speech to both Houses.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate :

Gentlemen of the House of Commons :

The auspicious recovery which the mercy of Providence vouchsafed from the well nigh mortal illness of the Prince of Wales, called forth a universal expression of joy and thankfulness throughout the Empire. All classes of the people testified their deep sense of relief from the anxieties of a long and painful suspense, by joining their beloved Queen in a public Thanksgiving, which proved in vastness of attendance and unanimity of feeling the grandest and most impressive ceremony ever witnessed in the British Capital. I invite you to follow the good example on the fifteenth day of this month. It was thought advisable to defer the solemnity until after the meeting of Parliament, and I feel assured that the Members of the two Houses, as well as all Her Majesty's faithful subjects throughout the Dominion, will be anxious to unite in celebrating the occasion with all becoming observance and loyal alacrity.

Your meeting has itself been postponed to a later season than usual, upon considerations of Imperial as well as Colonial interest, and at the instance of Her Majesty's Government.

The young Province of *Manitoba* was, last September, threatened with an invasion of lawless persons from the *United States*. Prompt measures for resistance were adopted by the local authorities and attended with the best results. In order to re-assure the people of the Province, and to prevent a recurrence of the outrage, I ordered a force of two hundred Militiamen to be sent to *Fort Garry*. Notwithstanding the inclement season of 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 accom-