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rather than by the direct action of the Government; and that three of His Excellency's Ministers therefore proceeded to *England* for the purpose of carrying on negotiations to that end.

That we are well pleased that His Excellency is able to inform us that their efforts were so far successful that a Contract has been entered into, subject to the approval of Parliament, with men of high financial standing in *Europe*, the *United States* and *Canada*, for the speedy construction and permanent working of this great national enterprise; that we thank His Excellency for informing us that the Contract and papers connected therewith, will be submitted to us without delay, and that they shall receive our early and earnest consideration.

That we are grateful to His Excellency for the information that he has summoned us before the usual period, in view of the fact that no action can be taken by the Contractors to prosecute the work, and no permanent arrangement for the organization of a systematic emigration from *Europe* to the *North West Territories*, can be satisfactorily made until the policy of Parliament with respect to the Railway has been decided.

That we are pleased to know that steady progress has been made in the construction of those portions of the railway now under contract, and that two additional sections have been recently opened for traffic, one from *Winnipeg* to *Portage la Prairie*, the other from *Cross Lake* to *Keewatin*; so that there are now in all 264 miles in operation.

That we are glad to learn that the measures adopted to promote economy in the working of the *Intercolonial* and *Prince Edward Island* Railways have resulted in a large reduction of the difference between Revenue and Expenditure; and that the steadily increasing traffic warrants the expectation that during the current year these railways will be self-sustaining.

That we are gratified to be informed by His Excellency that Her Majesty's Government has generously presented to *Canada*, for training school purposes, the steam corvette *Charybdis* lately returned from service in the *Chinese Seas*, and that the correspondence on this subject will be laid before us.

That we receive with much interest the intimation that His Excellency has thought it well, in consideration of the increasing duties thrown by the development of the country upon the Civil Service, and for the more efficient organization of such Service, to issue a Royal Commission to examine and report on the whole question, and that His Excellency believes that the Report of the Commissioners will be ready to be laid before us at an early day; and that our earnest consideration shall be given to such Report and to the whole subject of Civil Service Reform.

That we shall give our best attention to the measure for the enlargement of the boundaries of the Province of *Manitoba*, which His Excellency is pleased to say, will be submitted to us.

That we share His Excellency's regret that the entire failure of the usual food supply of the Indians in the *North West*, to which he called our attention last Session, has continued during the present season, and has involved the necessity of a large expenditure in order to save them from absolute starvation. That we are glad to learn that several of the Bands have, however, already applied themselves to the cultivation of their Reserves and the care of their cattle, and that no effort will be spared to induce the whole of the aboriginal population to betake themselves to agricultural pursuits.

That we thank His Excellency for the assurance that the Accounts of the last, and the Estimates for the ensuing year, will be laid before us; and that we trust that the Estimates will be found to have been prepared with due regard to economy and the efficiency of the Public Service.

That it will be satisfactory to us to find that the existing Tariff has not only promoted the manufactures and other products of the country, but has so far increased the revenues of the Dominion as to place it beyond doubt that the receipts of the current fiscal year will be in excess of the expenditures chargeable to Consolidated Revenue.