

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY :

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects the Legislative Council of Canada, in Provincial Parliament assembled, humbly thank your Excellency for your Excellency's gracious Speech from the Throne, at the opening of this, the first Session of the Provincial Parliament.

We thank Your Excellency for assembling the Legislature of United Canada at the earliest period which the circumstances of the Province, and the arduous duties imposed upon your Excellency by the Act of Union admitted; and we participate most fully in the satisfaction expressed by your Excellency on your Excellency's meeting the Provincial Parliament to deliberate on the great and important interests committed to their charge.

We learn with feelings of deep indignation the injurious detention in the neighbouring states, of one of Her Majesty's subjects, an inhabitant of this Province, charged with a pretended crime. We gratefully acknowledge the promptness of the Provincial Government in remonstrating against this proceeding, and in insuring to the individual the means of defence pending the further action of Her Majesty's Government, and we confidently hope that the demand made by the Queen's Representative at Washington, may be acceded to, in the spirit which ought to actuate an enlightened and friendly nation.

We assure your Excellency of our warmest gratitude to our beloved Sovereign, for Her Majesty's gracious expression of Her determination to protect Her faithful Subjects in Canada, with the whole weight of Her power.

We feel great satisfaction at being informed by your Excellency, that arrangements were completed during the course of last summer by which, under the direction of the Treasury, the rates of Postage between all parts of this Colony and the United Kingdom have been greatly reduced; and that a more speedy and regular conveyance of letters between different parts of this Province has since been established by the Deputy Post Master General, under your Excellency's directions, and that a Commission has been appointed by your Excellency to inquire into and report upon the whole Post Office System of British North America; and we rejoice in your Excellency's confident anticipation, that the result of the labours of the Commission will be the establishment of a plan securing improvements in the internal communication by post within the Colony, equal to

those which have already been obtained in the communication with the Mother Country.

We assure your Excellency, that we will devote our early attention to the important subjects, upon some of which your Excellency has directed Bills to be prepared for our consideration.

We acknowledge the primary importance of the adoption of measures for the development of the resources of the Province, by well considered and extensive public works; and we cordially concur in the opinion expressed by your Excellency, that the rapid settlement of the country the value of every man's property within it, and the advancement of his future fortunes are deeply affected by this question.

We feel most grateful for the determination of Her Majesty's Government, of which we are informed by your Excellency, to call on the Imperial Parliament to afford their assistance towards the improvement of the navigation from the shores of Lakes Erie and Huron to the Ocean, and to the establishment of new internal communications in the inland Districts.

We are fully sensible of the importance of these undertakings, and of the benefits to be derived from them, as well as of the necessity for the aid so generously offered by Her Majesty's Government, and uniting with them in the full belief that peace and tranquillity will be happily re-established in this Province under the Constitution settled by Parliament, and that nothing but a relief from its most pressing difficulties is wanting to its advancement to prosperity. We humbly express our gratitude for the proposal intended by Her Majesty's Government to be made to Parliament, of affording the guarantee of the Imperial Treasury for a loan to the extent of no less than a million and a half sterling, to aid the Province, for the double purpose of diminishing the pressure of the interest upon the public debt, and of enabling it to proceed with those great public undertakings, whose progress during the last few years has been arrested by financial difficulties. We will assiduously consider the measure to be laid before us by your Excellency's direction, embracing a plan for this purpose, and receive thankfully extracts from the despatches which convey to your Excellency this most gratifying assurance.

We assure your Excellency that we shall give our best attention to the subjects of Emigration, and the disposal and settlement of Public Lands, as well as the means which may be devised for affording sure employment for