

national rights are being guarded, without, at the same time, any diminution of the friendly relations which ought to subsist between those whose common origin and mutual interests offer so many pledges for the preservation of peace.

You will be pleased to learn that the Government of the United States have at length consented to negotiate on the subject of their commercial relations with the British Empire. I shall rejoice if these negotiations result in the opening of more extended markets for the productions of British America, and the adjustment of questions in which the Legislatures of all the Provinces have hitherto evinced a lively interest.

*Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:*

The public accounts and the estimates of the expenses of the current year shall be laid before you without delay.

*Mr. President, and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:*

*Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:*

The question of Railway communication has received from the members of my Government that grave attention which its vital importance to the future interests of the Province demands. The negotiations for an inter-Colonial line having been broken off prior to my assumption of this Government, Nova Scotia was freed from previous obligations, and left at liberty to frame such measures as should be suited to her own peculiar position and requirements. The promulgation of a minute in Council, pledging the Government, with the approbation of the Legislature, to construct certain lines upon our great thoroughfares, has induced parties to make propositions all deserving of our careful consideration.

That you might the more readily be enabled to deal with the whole subject, and decide wisely upon the policy to be adopted, I have been careful that the means to carry out that policy should be provided; and when the papers referring to this subject are laid before you, I trust that you will be satisfied that every effort has been made to prepare the way for wise and successful legislation. While I estimate at their true value the great advantages to be derived by the public generally from the construction of Railroads, and while I also look confidently forward to their completion, I trust I need not remind you of the serious responsibility that rests upon you to confine the liabilities of the Province within those limits which its revenues and resources will justify, in order that the honor and good faith of Nova Scotia may continue unquestioned and unimpaired.

The system by which grants of money are expended on the Great Roads of this Province, is confessedly so defective that I have instructed the members of my Government to prepare a measure for your consideration, that I hope may be approved. So large a portion of the population of this country being engaged in the cultivation of the soil, there is no subject which demands more careful investigation than the means by which their condition can be elevated and their productive power increased.

From the best information I can gather, it would appear that notwithstanding the liberality of the Legislature and the exertions of the Central Board and of local societies, there is yet wide field for improvement in this department.

Your attention will be called to a revision of the existing Laws, and to the means by which finer breeds of cattle and sheep may be introduced into the Province, and sound knowledge bearing upon the pursuits of husbandry more widely diffused.

Circumstances having prevented the Legislature from revising the Common School Act, during the last session, that duty devolves upon us now, and I confidently anticipate that in maturing the measures which I shall direct to be laid before you, I shall have your enlightened co-operation.

My attention has been called to the injuries occasioned to the River Fisheries of this Province, from obstructions to the free passage of fish, by the erection of dams and the setting of nets, in violation of the law. This subject is of great importance. The salmon fisheries have been gradually decreasing within the last few years, and I shall rejoice if your wisdom and local experience can avert the destruction of a valuable resource, either by an amendment of the law, should it be found defective, or by providing for its more vigorous execution.

The blessings of Divine Providence it behoves the representatives of a Christian Sovereign duly to acknowledge. They are spread around us on every hand. An abundant harvest crowned the labours of the husbandman; commerce, freed from restrictions has sought new channels; though the fishery, I regret to learn, has not been so productive as usual in some localities.

In the success of every measure calculated to develop the resources and elevate the character of Nova Scotia, I shall ever take a deep interest; and you may rely upon my desire to conduct public affairs in such a manner as will lighten your labours, soothe the asperities incidental to public life, and promote the prosperity of all classes throughout this fine country.

The House has since met for despatch of business. Railway and other topics of importance have been discussed, but no definite arrangements have been agreed to upon any subject.