

gether, and to ensure the attachment of the people to the soil, by the enactment of wise and equal laws.

We feel with Your Excellency that our efforts in these directions seem now more than ever likely to be called into action, inasmuch as Your Excellency is pleased to inform us that the terms upon which great accessions are offered to the Dominion, will be submitted for our immediate consideration.

We learn with the deepest interest, that in consequence of the Duke of *Buckingham* and *Chandos'* despatch of the 8th August of last year, stating that His Grace proposed to enter into negotiations with the *Hudson's Bay Company*, as to the terms on which they would be willing to surrender their rights and claims in the North-West Territory, Lord *Monck* sent home to *England* two Members of the Privy Council as a deputation to watch the course of the proceedings and attend to the interests of *Canada*:—That the Conferences in *London* and the correspondence on the subject have been brought to a definite issue by the proposal which, after a full review of the circumstances, Earl *Granville* made on the part of Her Majesty's Government for the consideration of the people of *Canada* and of the *Hudson's Bay Company*,—and that Your Excellency has received the intelligence that the *Hudson's Bay Company* has, after some deliberation, decided upon accepting the terms laid down by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

We thank Your Excellency for having directed that the Report of the Mission, and all the Papers connected therewith, shall be duly laid before Parliament; and we shall not fail to give them our serious consideration in view of the great importance of the subject, no less than in the hope that this long vexed question may be closed without further delay.

We share with Your Excellency the gratification afforded you by communications from the Governor of *Newfoundland*, expressing the desire for admission into the Union which prevails amongst the inhabitants of that Colony, and especially by his Despatch of the 20th March last, covering copies of Resolutions which have been passed by the Council and Assembly, and which set forth the conditions they consider it desirable to advance.

We are happy to be informed that these documents will be furnished at once for the information of Parliament, and that Your Excellency entertains the hope that before the close of the Session you may be in a position to submit the details of a provisional arrangement for our consideration.

It will be a sensible pleasure to us, in common with Your Excellency, as well as a subject of general congratulation, if at some early day the fine Colony of *Newfoundland*, unrivalled as the nursery of hardy seamen, and inexhaustible in its wealth of Fisheries, becomes part of the Dominion.

We learn with great satisfaction, that in accordance with the suggestion of Her Majesty's Government, an earnest attempt has been made to allay the discontent unhappily existing in *Nova Scotia*, and Your Excellency may be assured that the papers connected with the subject will not fail to receive our favorable consideration.

We are glad to know that in continuance of the course commenced last session, Bills will be presented to us for the assimilation of the Criminal Laws existing in the several Provinces, and that we agree with Your Excellency in believing that no greater boon can be conferred on a Country than a well defined code of Criminal Law, of general application and easy ascertainment.

Any Bills which Your Excellency may direct to be presented to us for the establishment of uniform and amended laws respecting Parliamentary Elections, Bankruptcy and Insolvency, and Patents of Invention and Discovery, will receive our most earnest attention.

We shall respectfully consider the Estimates for the expenditure of the coming Financial year which Your Excellency informs us are to be submitted to us, feeling sure that they have been framed with every economy compatible with the efficiency of the Public Service. We thank Your Excellency for having also directed that the Financial Accounts of the past year shall be laid before us.

We are aware that the Charters of several Banks are drawing to a close, and that important subjects of Banking and Currency must necessarily be brought under our notice.

In considering these questions, which so deeply affect, not only the important interests of Commerce, but the daily transactions of life, Your Excellency may rest assured that we shall endeavour to adopt such principles as, in their application, may ensure the greatest