

I have watched with much anxiety the course of events, in the North-West Territories. Unfortunate misapprehensions of the intention with which the country was sought to be acquired by Canada, have led to complications of a grave character. With a view to their removal, I have thought it desirable to exhaust every means of conciliation, before adopting other measures; and the latest advices lead me to expect that the groundless alarms entertained by a portion of the inhabitants, have given place to a desire to listen to the explanations, which I have caused to be made to them. Efforts made in the spirit, which has animated my Government throughout, can scarcely fail to accomplish an equitable and peaceful solution of the existing difficulty, and thereby secure the speedy incorporation of the North-West Territories with Canada an object so earnestly desired by the Empire and the Dominion.

As the Act, for the temporary Government of the Territories when united with Canada, will expire at the close of the present Session, a measure providing for their Government will be submitted for your consideration.

The Charters of most of the Banks of the Dominion were, last Session, extended for a limited period, with the view that during the interval the questions of Banking and Currency should receive the consideration which their importance demands. A measure intended to ensure safety to the community, without interfering with the legitimate operations of the Banks will be submitted for your consideration, and will, I trust, be found calculated to place those important interests upon a sound and stable basis.

The Laws in force on the subject of the Elective Franchise, and the regulation of Parliamentary Elections in the several Provinces of the Dominion, vary much in their operations, and it is important that uniform provision should be made, settling the Franchise and regulating Elections to the House of Commons. A measure upon this subject will be submitted for your consideration.

Under the operation of an Act of the Imperial Parliament, passed in the year 1869, to amend the laws relating to the Coasting Trade, and Merchant Shipping in British Possessions, a period of two years is given to the Legislatures of the several Colonies of the Empire to make provision for the regulation of the Coasting Trade. In the absence of legislation on the subject, within the period named, the provisions of the Imperial Law will be in force. The extent and value of our internal commerce, render legislation on this subject

desirable, and a measure with regard to it will be submitted for your consideration.

The creation of a Court of Appeal under the powers conferred upon you by the Union Act, is a matter deserving your attention. A measure will be submitted to you for the establishment of such a Court, and for conferring upon it certain original jurisdiction.

The year 1871 is that in which the next decennial Census is fixed by law to take place. As there are different laws on the subject in the several Provinces, it will, therefore, be necessary to pass a General Act, to establish a uniform and accurate system throughout the Dominion. Steps have already been taken to secure the co-operation of Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island; and, I trust, a Census upon one system will be made simultaneously in all Her Majesty's British North American Possessions. I need not expatiate on the importance of the information which the tables of the Census are calculated to afford, as, in addition to their interest and value on general grounds, it must be recollected that upon them depends the readjustment of the Parliamentary representation.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

I have directed that the accounts of the last year shall be laid before you. The estimates for the present financial year will also be submitted. They have been framed with every regard to economy, compatible with the efficiency of the Public Service; and you will, I trust, be of opinion that the Finances are in a satisfactory state, and that the people can, without inconvenience, afford for the service of Her Majesty, the supplies which it will be the duty of my Government to ask you to vote.

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate: Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

The Act respecting the Militia and Defence of the Dominion has not failed to engage my attention. The high spirit and loyalty of the people are placed in a clear light by the fact that the Active Militia have, voluntarily, come forward largely in excess of the quota required, as well as by the zealous attendance of the various Corps at the annual training in the camps, and by the promptness with which they assembled in force, at the call of duty, on more than one occasion, when Fenian marauders threatened the peace of the country.

I have observed, with great satisfaction, the efforts which have been made in several of the Provinces of the Dominion to foster and encourage immigration to our shores. The continued progress of great public works, in many portions of the country, will afford the opportunity of early employment to intending immigrants, and I look forward with confidence to the