

which you graciously say you have learned to be characteristic of Canada. It is gratifying to us to find that a comparison of Your Excellency's own observations with those of your predecessors shows clearly the great progress which has marked this part of the Dominion, in the settlement of the Country and in the development of its great agricultural capabilities, of its mineral wealth and of its other natural resources.

We receive with a full sense of its importance the announcement that, in consequence of the repeated seizures by Cruisers of the United States Navy of Canadian Vessels, while employed in the capture of seals in that part of the Northern Pacific Ocean, known as Behring Sea, Your Excellency's Government has strongly represented to Her Majesty's Ministers the necessity of protecting our shipping, while engaged in their lawful calling, as well as guarding against the assumption by any nation of exclusive proprietary rights in those waters. We beg leave to assure Your Excellency of our confidence that those representations have had due weight, and we trust that your hope of being enabled during the present Session to assure us that all differences on this question are in the course of satisfactory adjustment will be realized.

We are glad to learn that, having observed the close attention which has recently been given by the Imperial authorities and on the continent of Europe to the improvement in the methods of catching, curing and packing fish, Your Excellency deemed it expedient to cause a Commission to be sent to Scotland and Holland to examine and report upon this subject during the fishing season, and that the report of the delegates will be laid before us; it will, we are sure, give our Fishermen most valuable information and instruction as to the best means of improving and developing this important industry.

We receive with interest the information that Your Excellency's Ministers have carefully considered the difficulties which surround the administration of the rights of the Dominion in its foreshores, harbors, lakes and rivers, and that a measure will be submitted to us for removing uncertainty as to the respective rights of the Dominion and of the Provinces, and for preventing confusion in the titles thereto.

We thank Your Excellency for informing us that the report of the Royal Commission on Labor, which was laid before us during the last Session, has been distributed throughout the country. We do not doubt that the information which it contains will be found eminently useful in suggesting improvements in the administration of the laws which affect the working classes, and we hear with satisfaction that measures for the amendment of those laws, so far as they come within the jurisdiction of the Parliament of Canada, will be submitted for our consideration.

Your Excellency has been pleased to announce to us that the early termination of the Acts of Incorporation of the principal Banking institutions of the Dominion necessitates a review of our present system of Banking and an adjustment of the terms under which the Charters of these corporations should be renewed. We beg leave to say that we shall not fail to give our most careful attention to this important subject.

We are gratified to learn that certain amendments to the Acts relating to the North-West Territories, calculated to facilitate the administration of affairs in that region, as also that a Bill further to promote the efficiency of the North-West Mounted Police, will be submitted for our consideration.

We also thank Your Excellency for informing us that measures will be laid before us relating to Bills of Exchange and Promissory Notes, to improve the laws respecting Patents of Invention and Discovery, to amend the Adulteration Act, and the law respecting the Inland Revenue, to amend also the Act respecting the Geological and Natural History Survey of Canada, and to provide for the better organization of the National Printing Establishment.

We humbly beg leave to assure Your Excellency that these weighty matters, and all others which may come before us, shall receive the careful consideration from us which you have been graciously pleased to invite, and also to assure Your Excellency that you may rely upon our most earnest efforts to deal with them in