

Viceroy and Representative; and that you recognize in this reception one more manifestation of the loyalty, the cordiality and the public spirit of the Canadian people.

Your Excellency's predecessor was able to express gratification to us last year, on an increase in trade and on the continued progress of the Dominion. It is gratifying to us to observe that the expectation then formed—that the volume of trade during the then current year would exceed that of any year in the history of the Dominion—has been fully realized and that Canada's progress continues, with every mark of stability and permanence.

We hear with satisfaction Your Excellency's statement that a large proportion of this increase is shown to have been due to an extension of our commerce with Great Britain.

We cordially agree with Your Excellency that it is a cause of thankfulness that our people have been spared in a very great degree from the sufferings which have visited the populations of some other countries during many months past, and that while the commercial depression prevailing abroad could not but affect the activity of business in the Dominion, we have been free from any extensive financial disaster or widespread distress.

We are glad to be informed that the revenues of the year have been ample for the services which we provided for, and have met the expectations on which the appropriations of last year were based.

We rejoice that the peaceful conclusion, by the award of the arbitrators at Paris, of the controversy which had prevailed so long, with respect to the Seal Fisheries in the Pacific Ocean and the rights of British subjects in the Behring Sea, has removed the only source of contention which existed between Great Britain and the United States with regard to Canada. We are also pleased to be informed that there is every reason to believe that Her Majesty's Government will obtain redress for those Canadian subjects of Her Majesty who were deprived of their property and liberty without just cause while the controversy was in progress.

We thank Your Excellency for informing us that at an early date a measure will be laid before us having for its object a revision of the Duties of Customs with a view to meet the changes which time has effected in business operations of all kinds throughout the Dominion; and that while Your Excellency's Ministers do not propose to change the principles on which the existing enactments on this subject are based, the amendments which will be offered for our consideration are designed to simplify the operation of the tariff and to lessen, so far as can be done, consistently with those principles and with the requirements of the Treasury, the imposts which are now in force.

We also thank Your Excellency for the information that there will also be laid before us a measure on the subject of Bankruptcy and Insolvency to make more adequate provision than now exists on that subject for the increasing trade and commerce of the country and for the greatly expanded trade between the several provinces of Canada.

Your Excellency having been pleased to inform us that measures will also be submitted to us making more effective provisions for our lines of steam communication on the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, for improving the law with regard to Dominion Lands and with regard to the Management of Indian Affairs, also a Bill respecting Joint Stock Companies, another with respect to the Fisheries and several less important measures which experience has suggested with regard to various matters under our control, we respectfully assure Your Excellency that all these measures shall receive our most attentive consideration.

We respectfully concur in Your Excellency's opinion that of the public measures which will demand our attention some will be of great weight and importance, and we sincerely share Your Excellency's earnest hope and prayer that the care and zeal which we shall apply to the deliberations of the Session may be aided by the abundant blessing of the Almighty.