

2. In accordance with the decision of Parliament, and to carry into effect the legislation of last Session, I have caused a Charter to be granted to a body of Canadian capitalists for the construction of the *Pacific* Railway. The Company now formed has given assurances that this great work will be vigorously prosecuted, and a favorable state of the money market in *England* affords every hope that satisfactory arrangements may be made for the required capital. The papers and correspondence relating to this subject will be laid before you.

3. During the past year the surveys for the improvement and extension of our system of Canals, for which appropriations were made last Session, have been in active preparation; and I am glad to inform you that the plans and specifications for the enlargement of the *Welland*, and the construction of the *Bais Verte* Canals, have been completed, and that the works can now be put under contract.

The surveys for the St. Lawrence Canals will, I am assured, be finished in time to commence the works at the beginning of next year. This will insure the completion of all these great undertakings at the same period.

4. It is gratifying to know that the efforts made to encourage immigration have met with a great measure of success, and that the numbers seeking a home in *Canada* have been greatly augmented during the last year. I do not doubt your readiness to make ample provision for the steadily increasing stream of settlers that may hereafter be annually expected to add to the population, wealth and strength of the Dominion.

5. The compilation of the first Census of the Dominion approaches completion, and this would, therefore, seem a fitting time to provide for the establishment of a proper system for the accurate collection and scientific arrangement of statistical information. I commend this subject to your attention.

6. It is important that provision should be made for the consolidation and amendment of the Laws now in force in the several Provinces, relating to the representation of the people in Parliament. A measure for this purpose, and one for the trial of Controverted Elections, will be submitted for your consideration.

7. Your attention will be invited to measures for the amendment of the Laws relating to Pilots, to Salvage, and to the Trinity Houses of *Montreal* and *Quebec*, as well as for the improvement of the Laws generally affecting our Merchant Shipping.

8. Experience has shown that the duties now performed in the Offices of the Secretary of State, and the Secretary for the Provinces, may be readjusted with advantage to the public service. A Bill on the subject will be laid before you.

9. Among other measures, Bills will be presented to you relating to the Criminal Law, to Weights and Measures, and to the amendment and consolidation of the Inspection Laws.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:—*

10. I have given directions that the accounts of the past, and of the first six months of the present financial year, shall be laid before you without delay. You will be gratified to learn that the finances of the Dominion are in a prosperous condition, and that there is no reason to doubt that the revenue will be sufficient to meet all contemplated charges upon it.

The Estimates for the ensuing year, which will be submitted to you, have been prepared with as much regard to economy as is compatible with the efficiency of the public service, and I venture to hope that you will be of opinion that the supplies which my Government will ask you to vote, can be granted without inconvenience to the people.