

Immediately after the termination of the last Session of Parliament, I convened, by instructions from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, a Council of Trade including representatives from the different Provinces of *British North America*.

I have directed the proceedings of this body to be laid before you.

I shall direct to be laid before you the papers relating to the termination of the Reciprocity Treaty with the *United States of America*, and to the negotiations on the subject of our commercial relations with that Country.

It has now become still more imperative to open by an extension of the trade of the Country with other Nations new markets for the varied products of our industry.

In consequence of the notice for the termination of the Reciprocity Treaty, I deemed it needful, with the assent and approbation of Her Majesty's Government, to send a deputation representing the colonies of *British North America*, during the winter, to the *West Indies* and *Brazil*, to ascertain the best means of developing and extending commercial relations with those Countries. The period at which the Delegation returned from their mission is so recent that no Report could as yet have been presented, but as soon as received, it will be communicated to you.

The threats and preparations for attack on *Canada* constantly and openly made by a body organized in the *United States of America* and known as 'Fenians,' compelled me, since Parliament rose, by the advice of my Ministers, to call out for active service a large portion of the Volunteer Militia Force of the Province.

The spirit displayed by the people and their ready response to my proclamation have received the well merited approval of Her Majesty's Government.

The events which have occurred within the last few days afford additional proofs of the necessity for the precautionary measures adopted.

The Province has been invaded by a lawless band of Marauders, but I congratulate the Country that they were promptly confronted and within twenty-four hours compelled to make a precipitate retreat.

I deplore the loss of life and the sufferings which have been entailed upon the gallant body of the Canadian Volunteers in the engagement which took place in repelling so promptly the invaders who had attacked the country; and I feel assured that you will not omit to alleviate, as far as may be in your power, the miseries so wantonly inflicted on many families. But while I grieve for their individual loss, I must congratulate the country that the first note of danger has shewn that *Canada* possesses in her Volunteers, a body of men ready to peril their lives in defence of their Queen and Country.

The entire people have been thoroughly aroused by recent occurrences; and it must now be apparent to all, that the whole resources of the country, both in men and means, will at any moment be cheerfully given in repelling any invasion of their homes.

In the measures of defence which I have been called upon to take, I have received the unremitting support of the Lt.-General Commanding, and of Admiral Sir James *Hope*. It is also a source of unfeigned pleasure to me to acknowledge the gallant devotion displayed by the Officers and men of Her Majesty's Military and Naval Forces in *Canada*.

I am happy to be able to state that the President of the *United States* has issued a Proclamation declaring that serious infractions of the laws of that country have been and are being committed, by evil disposed persons, within the Territory and Jurisdiction of the *United States*, against the British Possessions in *North America*, and requiring all officers of his Government to exert every effort for their repression. I trust that the course thus adopted will ere long prevent this country from being subjected to further attacks from the citizens of a nation on terms of amity with *Great Britain*.

The maintenance of the Force on active duty, which the Government has been compelled to call out, has involved an Expenditure to a large amount which was not provided for by the votes of last Session.

The accounts of this expenditure will be specially laid before you, and I feel confident that you will immediately pass a Bill indemnifying the Government for this unavoidable departure from the provisions of the Audit Act.

Recent occurrences shew the necessity of extending to *Lower Canada* the Act, Cap. 98 Consolidated Statutes for *Upper Canada*, to protect the inhabitants of that section of the Province against lawless aggression from subjects of Foreign Countries at peace with Her Majesty. It has also been necessary for the preservation of law and order, to adopt a