

I am pleased to inform you that the amount awarded for the Fishery claims, under the *Washington Treaty*, has been paid by the *United States*, and that Her Majesty's Government has arranged with *Canada* and *Newfoundland* for their respective shares of the award. The papers on the subject shall be submitted to you.

The important and rapidly increasing trade between *Canada* and *England*, in live cattle, has been seriously threatened by the appearance, in various parts of the *United States*, of pleuro-pneumonia. In order to prevent the contagion from spreading to *Canada*, and the consequent interruption of the trade, I have caused an Order to be issued under "The Animal Contagious Diseases' Act, 1869," prohibiting the importation or introduction into the Dominion of American cattle, for a short period. It is hoped that the disease will be, ere long, extinguished in the *United States*, and the necessity for continuing the prohibition removed. Your attention will be invited to an amendment of the Act I have just referred to.

My Government has commenced negotiations, with Her Majesty's sanction, for the development of the trade of *Canada* with *France* and *Spain*, and with their respective colonies. I hope to be able to lay before you the result of these negotiations during the present session.

It is the purpose of my Government to press for the most vigorous prosecution of the Canadian *Pacific Railway* and to meet the reasonable expectations of *British Columbia*. In carrying out this intention, due regard must be had to the financial position of the country. Communication by rail has been effected between *Manitoba* and the *United States* system of railways, by the junction, at *St. Vincent*, of the *Pembina* branch of our railway, with the *St. Paul* and *Pacific Railroad*. That portion of the main line which extends from *English River* to *Keewatin* is now being placed under contract, and will be energetically pushed to completion in order to secure, as rapidly as is possible, the connection between *Lake Superior* and the great *North-West*.

A Bill for the amendment and consolidation of the Acts relating to Stamps shall be submitted for your consideration, as well as a measure amending the Act relating to Weights and Measures.

The decennial census must be taken in 1881. I think it expedient that a measure for the purpose should be passed during the present Session in order to give ample time for the preparation of all the preliminary arrangements, and to ensure the census being taken as accurately and inexpensively as possible. In connection with this subject it may be well to consider the propriety of providing some means for the collection and collation of vital, criminal and general statistics.

A Bill will be laid before you for the re-arrangement of some of the Departments of the Government, and also measures relating to the survey and management of the Dominion Lands, to the Mounted Police, and to the Post Office Department; and also for the amendment, in some particulars, of the laws relating to Indians.

A measure will also be submitted to you for the vesting in Her Majesty, for the use of the Dominion, of certain ordnance and admiralty lands in the Provinces of *Nova Scotia* and *New Brunswick*.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

The Estimates for the ensuing year will be laid before you at an early day. They have been prepared with as much regard to economy as is compatible with the efficiency of the public service.

I regret that the receipts into the Treasury from ordinary sources continue to be inadequate to meet the charges against the Consolidated Revenue. You will, I doubt not, agree with me in the opinion that it is not desirable that our finances should longer remain in this condition. By the application of the strictest economy to the public expenditure, and by the re-adjustment of the tariff with the view of increasing the revenue, and, at the same time, of developing and encouraging the various industries of *Tanada*, you will, I trust, be enabled to restore the equilibrium between revenue and expenditure, and to aid in removing the commercial and financial depression which unhappily continues to exist. I have directed that the Public Accounts of the past financial year shall be laid before you.