

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY :

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Senate of Canada, in Parliament assembled, respectfully thank Your Excellency, for your gracious Speech at the opening of this Session.

We rejoice with Your Excellency that in again summoning us for the despatch of business, Your Excellency is able to say that nothing beyond the ordinary business of the country requires our attendance.

We are glad that Your Excellency had an opportunity before your departure from Canada of visiting the Province of Manitoba and a portion of the outside Territories, which visit Your Excellency accomplished during last Autumn. Your Excellency has now had the advantage of visiting every Province in the Dominion during the term of your government of Canada.

We are happy to be informed that the arbitration on the Fishery Claims, under the Washington Treaty, has been concluded, and that an award has been made by the Commission of \$5,500,00 as compensation to Canada and Newfoundland for the use of their fisheries during the term of the present treaty. Though this amount is much less than that claimed by Your Excellency's Government, we agree with Your Excellency that having assented to the creation of the tribunal for the determination of their value, we are bound loyally to assent to the decision given.

We rejoice to know that the exhibition of Canadian manufactures and products at Sydney, New South Wales, was successfully carried out. We trust that the result will be the opening up of a new market for Canadian goods even in so remote a region as the Australasian colonies, shipments of Canadian productions having already been made. Though the expenditure may exceed the estimate, we doubt not the cost to Canada will be amply repaid by the extension of her trade.

It gives us great pleasure to learn that preparations have been uninterruptedly carried on, during the last six months, for securing an ample but select exhibition of Canada's products and manufactures at the great exhibition to be held at Paris during the current year. We are prepared to concur in any further grant that may be required to meet the expenditure.

Hon. Mr. Thibeau.

That His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, as Chairman of the British Commissioners, has assigned a prominent place to Canada in one of the main Towers, where a Canadian Trophy is now being erected; we are also very glad to hear.

We regret to know that a very disastrous fire occurred in June last in the City of St. John, which caused the destruction of a large portion of the city, including all the public buildings owned by the Dominion Government. Your Excellency's Government having deemed it necessary to contribute \$20,000 to assist in relieving the immediate wants of the people who were rendered destitute by so appalling a calamity, and Your Excellency having also sanctioned the appropriation of some public money, with which to commence the erection of new buildings for the public business, we shall be ready to do our part towards confirming those acts in the usual way.

We are glad to learn from Your Excellency, that during last summer Your Excellency's Commissioners made another Treaty with the Blackfeet, Blood and Piegan Indians, by which the Indian title is extinguished over a territory of 51,000 square miles west of Treaty No. 4, and south of Treaty No. 6, that the Treaty has been made on terms nearly the same as those under Treaty No. 6, though somewhat less onerous; and that the entire territory west of Lake Superior to the Rocky Mountains, and from the boundary nearly to the 55th degree of North latitude, embracing about 450,000 square miles, has now been acquired by peaceful negotiation with the native tribes, who place implicit faith in the honor and justice of the British Crown.

We thank Your Excellency for the important information, that early in the past summer a large body of Indians, under Sitting Bull, from the United States, crossed into British territory to escape from the United States troops, and have since remained on the Canadian side, and that the United States Government made a friendly but unsuccessful attempt to induce those Indians to return to their reservations. We agree with Your Excellency in hoping that such arrangements may yet be made as may lead to their permanent and peaceful settlement, and thus relieve Canada of a source of uneasiness and a heavy expenditure.