

messieurs, le chemin de fer Intercolonial qu'a procuré aux Provinces Maritimes et à la Province de Québec de si grands avantages. Espérons que le Gouvernement se trouvera bientôt en position de pouvoir compléter cette grande voie ferrée, en en assurant les bienfaits à certaines régions, qui, en l'alimentant, deviendront plus tard des sources de profit dans l'intérêt général.

Je ne parlera pas, honorables messieurs, des lois de milice, des terres publiques, des douanes et des banques avant que ces mesures nous soient soumises. Mais je dois déclarer ici que je vois avec satisfaction l'intention du Gouvernement de présenter une mesure pour l'assimilation de la franchise électorale dans les différentes provinces du pays; et aussi une autre mesure pour perfectionner le service civil. Je suis convaincu que les employés du service qui forment un corps si capable et si respectable seront heureux de voir que le Gouvernement et le parlement désirent améliorer leur sort.

Quand au projet de loi que l'administration nous promet au sujet des maîtres et contre-maîtres de vaisseaux dans les eaux intérieures du Canada, je suis certain que le pays tout entier se réjouira de voir que cette question importante qui intéresse la vie et la propriété, reçoive la considération du parlement. Il en est de même d'une autre mesure importante qui nous est promise en rapport avec les manufactures et les industries du pays. Cette mesure protégera l'ouvrier et sa famille, en assurant sa sécurité et rendant plus salubres les édifices où il accomplit son labeur. Avant de terminer, honorables messieurs, je ne puis pas omettre de faire allusion au paragraphe du discours du Trône qui nous annonce que le parlement aura à considérer quelles mesures il conviendrait d'adopter pour empêcher la vente sans restriction des liqueurs enivrantes, tout en réglant la question des licences d'auberge. Ce sujet est de la plus haute importance. Et pour ma part, dans les limites de mon pouvoir, je ferai en sorte de seconder l'administration dans ce qu'elle croira être nécessaire pour atteindre ce double but.

Je remercie cette honorable Chambre de l'attention qu'elle m'a accordée, et je propose :

That an humble Address be presented to His

Excellency the Governor General to thank His Excellency for his gracious Speech at the opening of the present Session, and further to assure His Excellency,—

That we receive with much pleasure His Excellency's congratulations on the auspicious circumstances under which at the opening of a new Parliament we shall begin our labours.

That we are gratified by the expression of His Excellency's opinion, that Canada is in the enjoyment of peace and prosperity, and that all her industries, agricultural, manufacturing and commercial, are in a healthy and improving condition.

That we thank His Excellency for informing us that, following the example of his distinguished predecessor, he paid a visit of some length to British Columbia last season; and for the expression of his conviction that the great natural resources of that Province promise, that as soon as the Pacific Railway is completed, an impulse to its prosperity, commensurate with the progress made elsewhere, will be assured, and that meanwhile, the disposal of the lands set aside in aid of the Railway to actual settlers will add to the importance and wealth of the Province.

That we learn with great satisfaction that while passing through the United States His Excellency was rejoiced to observe many evidences of regard for the Empire of which this country forms so large a portion; and that we concur heartily in His Excellency's wish that this friendship, which is so fully returned by us, may be as enduring as it is natural and advantageous to the mutual interests of both great nations.

That we share His Excellency's belief that the steady flow of settlers into Manitoba and the North-West Territories last year, and the assurances received of an increased immigration during the coming season, promise well for the early development of those fertile and salubrious regions.

That we understand that His Excellency has been advised that it is important that the laws relating to the representation of the people in Parliament should be amended and the electoral franchises existing in the several provinces assimilated; and that the measure to be submitted to us for this purpose will receive full consideration.

We receive with gratification the information that the steady flow of settlers into Manitoba and the North-West Territories last year, and the assurances received of an increased immigration during the coming season, promise well for the