

present moment than that, looking to the development of this country, looking to the vast resources we possess, looking to the opening up of that great North-West, I believe that the question of an increased issue of the currency of this Dominion may very well be submitted to us by the Government of the day. Another topic, and almost the last upon which I shall find it desirable to touch, is the Insolvent Act. To that subject our attention is invited, and, although I have strongly felt, and felt during the last Session, how possible it was that we should go too far in removing from our Statute-book legislation which stood upon it without some well-considered substitute; although I felt a desire that an Insolvent Act should be still continued, I confess that, after all that I have heard during the year that has since elapsed, and from what I have been able to gather of the feeling of the commercial communities of this Dominion, I am inclined to the conviction that it would be wise were we, for a time, to repeal the Insolvency Act. There are important matters which such an Act as that should subserve: there is the protection of the insolvent himself, the protection of his creditors, and the advantage to the country of setting free whatever commercial talent it may possess. If we can obtain an Act which will fairly answer these conditions, I shall be prepared and desirous to record my vote in favour of such a measure. In the meantime, this Act has not answered those purposes. It is found to be extremely inconvenient in its operation, and, guided by the old legal maxim that "an inconvenience is worse than a mischief," I trust that the course to be pursued in connection with this Act will rather be to abolish it altogether than to indulge in any more expedients in connection with it. Now, Mr. Speaker, I have thus run over the several subjects referred to in the Speech which seem to connect themselves with what we may term our internal affairs. With internal affairs alone this Parliament has to deal; internal affairs alone we have been called upon to consider on former occasions. To-day we are asked to consider a subject which connects itself rather with our external relations, and, whilst we have every freedom in connection with that legislation which pertains to our own country, there are many matters of the deepest inter-

est and significance to us as a Dominion which must be transacted and negotiated through the Imperial Government, and all will feel how necessary, it is that at the very seat of the Imperial Government itself, we should have someone accredited who would have the opportunity and who would possess ability to represent this country fully and faithfully. Anyone entrusted with such a mission as that must be the possessor of rare qualities. He must be a man thoroughly conversant with all the interests of his own country, with a mind wide enough to grasp the general relations of the Empire, with firmness to discuss and enforce by argument all that is necessary to be considered in connection with the country he represents, and an urbanity which will render him acceptable to those he addresses. Such men are rare in any country, but I believe that Canada is not without them, and such a one I have no doubt the Government will be able to place its hands upon, should this House adopt the suggestion which has been thrown out for the appointment of a permanent representative of this country in London to guard her various interests. I shall not presume to detain the House further than to express my thanks for the patient hearing which I have received, and to move, as I now do, the resolution to which I referred in the earlier portion of my remarks.

Mr. HOUDE: Mr. Speaker, if, on the one hand, it is a difficult task for me to address the House on this solemn occasion, to second the Address moved by my honourable friend the worthy representative of Halifax, in answer to the gracious Speech of His Excellency, on the other hand, this task is rendered agreeable to me by the thought that in performing it I find a favourable opportunity of making myself the humble echo of the sentiments of approbation and confidence which the great majority of the people visibly entertain towards the present advisers of His Excellency, for the courageous, enlightened and patriotic policy which they have followed since their accession to power. But, before bestowing congratulations on them, however well merited they may be, it is proper that we should join with His Excellency in thanking the Almighty for the benefits which He has been pleased to shed