

necessaries of life as at any other time owing to the corresponding lowness of the price of those necessaries. These considerations are the more important to Canada because she is destined to become one of the great grain-producing areas of the world. It is desirable to note these facts, that it may be seen that the relation between the products of the farm and the necessaries which must be obtained in exchange for them is now and is likely to continue to be very favorable to the agricultural interest. In referring, as we may, with great satisfaction to the restoration of peace and order in the North-West Territories, I am sure the House will pardon me if I make a passing allusion to the mournful event through which I have been called upon to occupy a seat in this Chamber. The town in which I live, the riding I have the honor to represent, and the Dominion at large, have not ceased to mourn many noble lives which have been offered up on the altar of patriotism; but that loss has fallen with peculiar severity upon East Durham, and it would perhaps be improper for me, as the successor of the lamented Colonel Williams, to speak further of one who held, and very deservedly held, the respect, esteem and affection of hon. members on both sides of this House. The Government, by prompt and effectual measures succeeded in suppressing a rebellion which might have resulted in most disastrous consequences to that part of the country in which the Indians live, and they should receive, and doubtless will receive, the practical endorsement of all those who desire to see the settler protected and our country prosperous and respected. We have, I think, every reason to feel proud of the achievements of our militia force—the volunteers—in the suppression of that rebellion, and I am sure the manner in which they encountered the hardships they were called upon to endure and the bravery they displayed in the field will meet with the hearty gratitude of the country. The prompt and energetic measures foreshadowed in the Speech, which are designed to maintain the supremacy of law in those distant regions, the settlers in which have a special claim upon the Parliament of Canada, will, I am sure, meet with the approval of the House. In this, as in all similar cases, the Government is called upon to assume certain responsibilities, and I am confident the people will sanction any steps that are taken to vindicate the majesty of the law and preserve the integrity of the Dominion. The energy now manifested by the Government is quite in keeping with the line adopted by them in suppressing the disturbance of last year, and this course, I may say, was urged and insisted upon by hon. members on both sides of the House and fully supported by them. By that action the Government showed the country, and proved to the world at large, that the resources of Canada, without being seriously strained, were quite adequate to meet the necessities of the occasion, and we may safely infer that neither men nor money would be wanting if new exigencies in the future should arise, and it should become necessary to call upon Parliament and the people for their assistance. The Government may point with great pride and satisfaction to the completion of our great national highway, the Canadian Pacific Railway. It is essential to the preservation of Confederation of the Provinces as a Dominion, and is also necessary for the development of the great resources of the North-West. Its position in relation to the other trans-continental lines gives it pre-eminence and an amount of power which it is impossible to overestimate. It must be borne in mind, that it is the only railway that connects absolutely by one line under one management and control the two great oceans that form the eastern and western boundaries of North America. This position, I think, fully justifies the remark made by the right hon. the Premier, that Liverpool and Hong Kong were really the termini of this road. Although not yet open for through traffic, the business which the railway has so far developed has

exceeded the most sanguine expectations, and it is a vindication of the far-seeing policy of the Government in supporting this road and in sustaining those engaged in its construction against very heavy obstacles, the magnitude of which it would be impossible to overstate. It is now demonstrated beyond doubt that the assistance given by the Government to the road at a critical moment of its history, prevented a great national disaster; and I think we may safely assume that the repayment of every dollar advanced by the Government to that railway, is now secured beyond peradventure. From a colonisation point of view it must not be forgotten that it will be necessary for the Canadian Pacific Railway Company to adopt an extensive system of branch lines, to connect with roads already projected and in course of construction; and that the road will thus become a most important factor in the development and settlement of the North-West. It will be remembered that in former debates in this House, some hon. gentlemen have expressed opinions—which, no doubt, arose from honest conviction—that the railway was being proceeded with too rapidly, that the bargain was an improvident one on the part of the Government, and, as they said, likely to be all on one side, so far as the advantages to be derived therefrom were concerned. I think we may safely assume that the early completion of the road is desirable in every way. It enables us to keep faith—nay, I think more than keep faith—with the Province of British Columbia, and the consequent development of the vast mineral resources of that Province must be of the greatest possible importance to the Dominion at large. Further, I think we will also have cause for congratulation if the contract should turn out a lucrative one for the gentlemen engaged in the work, for their success must mean a consequent advantage to the country; and every true Canadian will be rejoiced to know that the bargain is a satisfactory one to them, and that it will have the effect of quieting the forebodings of those who predicted that the country would have to assume the possession of the road and work it at a loss. It is also satisfactory to know that the burden which the country is called upon to assume for the completion of that work, is not likely to be a very heavy one. I notice by the Budget Speech of Sir Leonard Tilley, delivered in this House last Session, that he did not calculate that more than an addition of one and three quarters cents per head of taxation, for interest on the public debt, would be caused by the completion of that railway, and I think, under the circumstances, the people of the country need not have any cause to feel uneasy. Altogether, I think we may congratulate ourselves upon an enterprise which has been grandly conceived, fearlessly and courageously undertaken and gloriously accomplished. The House will be glad to notice that the Government have taken a firm attitude on the fisheries question, and it is well known also that they are quite ready to adopt conciliatory measures in dealing with that question, as is evidenced by the standing resolution of the House, passed at the time the present tariff was brought in, empowering the Governor in Council to modify the tariff relating to important items of international commerce so as to adjust our trade relations in conformity with the action of Congress. The time having arrived when the Government evidently feels justified in considering the representation of the North-West Territories in Parliament, it will be learned with great satisfaction that a census having been completed, measures will be adopted to provide for such representation. It will be conceded that the condition of that country, its sparse and scattered settlements, the lack of perfect municipal organisation, and the impossibility, under such circumstances, of providing adequate machinery for ascertaining the wishes of the people, have prevented an earlier movement in this direction, and that the Government are in no way to blame