

I am sure, are the forerunners of demonstrations not less cordial which await them wherever they go, from Charlottetown to Vancouver. Alas, Mr. Speaker, that a sudden and painful bereavement should have plunged the representatives of our Sovereign in affliction so very soon after the brilliant demonstrations which heralded their arrival! Ever cruel, Death spares none, neither rank, youth, nor even goodness itself. The untimely decease of the Princess Alice has produced the most painful emotion among the Canadian subjects of Her Majesty, who had learned to respect her name. They knew how much more that loss would be felt by our gracious Sovereign who, having known great joys in the course of a long and illustrious reign, has also experienced great sorrows. His Excellency, Mr. Speaker, has congratulated us on the successes we obtained at the great International Exposition at Paris; successes which gave other nations a high opinion of our intellectual, industrial, and agricultural advancement. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, who acted as President of the English section, showed a most lively interest in us, in facilitating the work of our Commissioners, thus acquiring new claims to the gratitude of the Canadian people. That exhibition, so suitable for making known the importance of our resources, should assist the measures taken by the Government for the establishment of more satisfactory commercial relations with France, Spain, and their respective colonies. France, observing here more than a million of her children, cannot forget that Canada was formerly New-France, and that she has left on our soil impressions and memories which time cannot obliterate. We must open new channels for our commerce and industries, and every step that His Excellency can take in the direction of a result so desirable, will receive from us the most favourable consideration. We have been glad to learn, Mr. Speaker, that our claims against the United States for the use of our fisheries have finally been settled in a satisfactory manner. No one acquainted with the value of our fisheries in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, and on our maritime coasts, will pretend for a moment that the sum of five million dollars is

excessive compensation for the privileges granted. The measures vigorously taken by the Government to prohibit temporarily the importation of live cattle from the United States, are entitled to the thanks and congratulations of this honourable House. The effect has been to increase the confidence that exists in England, in our determination to protect the country against the introduction of those destructive epidemics which have ravaged the herds of Europe. His Excellency informs us that a law will be introduced relative to the census, and providing for the collection of special statistics, also for the modification of existing laws regulating certain Departments of the Public Administration. I would mention specially the amendment of the Acts respecting stamps, the improvement of the Weights and Measures Act, the creation of a national system of life insurance, changes in the management of the Federal lands, the Mounted Police, and Indian affairs. All these reforms deserve comment, did I not prefer to pay particular attention to other portions of the Speech from the Throne. Mr. Speaker, the House is happy to learn that energetic steps will be taken to push on the work of our transcontinental railway. Already, the Intercolonial is in full operation, and has created an extensive trade between the Maritime Provinces and the rest of the country. It has absorbed many millions, and to-day everybody recognizes the immense advantages which will result therefrom. Only a few days ago the first train of the North Shore Railway traversed the Ottawa region, effecting an entire revolution in the facilities for transport in the Province of Quebec, and constituting an important link in our great national route. The Pacific Railway enterprise, which is to unite all our lines of communication in a vast uninterrupted network, extending from ocean to ocean, cannot be accomplished without enormous expense; but we have reason to hope that the statesmen who contributed to establish Confederation—aided by those who, trained in their school, preserve its tradition—who have constructed the Intercolonial, built the Victoria Bridge—one of the wonders of the world—enlarged our canals, executed almost all our admirable system of public improvements, will be able to con-