

and if, from time to time, we have been forced to come to the Federal Government to get something more, it was because it was impossible for us to go any further otherwise. We have received liberal assistance from the Government here, but it does not follow that we have got all that we are entitled to; and at the present time, if we consider the value and importance, not only of the vast Province of Manitoba, but also of the North-West Territories, I do not think it is saying too much to observe that we have not yet received one-half of what we were entitled to at the time Manitoba was admitted into the Union, if more precaution had been taken then to secure our rights. We have respectfully come, from time to time, and stated our wants to the Dominion Government and we have received kind attention from them, and I suppose in this instance also, we will receive an increase of subsidy. It is simply an act of justice to the Province which I have the honor to represent, and one which I am sure will be unanimously conceded by this House.

I am glad to see that the Government are disposed to advance the construction of railways in the North-West Territories. There are lines which in the interests of colonization should be constructed as soon as possible. Lines are spoken of running in north-west and south-west directions. I hope the Government will be disposed to help those enterprises in such a way that they will be constructed rapidly in order to promote the settlement of the country. I would here take the liberty of suggesting a better system of aiding them. Hitherto we have assisted them by grants of land at a time when land in the North-West was not appreciated at its full value. Perhaps it would be better to aid them with a grant of money. It would be a more practical mode of assisting the corporations which have undertaken the construction of those roads. I respectfully submit this suggestion in the interests not only of Manitoba but of the North-West Territories, and in the interests of the whole of Canada.

I observe with great satisfaction that efforts have been made by the Government during the last summer to ascertain the practicability of navigating Hudson's Bay and Straits. We know that difficulties exist, but I trust that the Government will

not be discouraged by them. The scheme, at all events, should be thoroughly investigated; if it should be found to be impracticable, of course, nobody will expect it to be proceeded with; but if it should be found practicable the opening up of that route would produce an important change in the commerce of the whole Dominion, and especially of Manitoba and the North-West Territories. It seems to me that it is the duty of the Government to endeavor, until it is found to be impracticable, to carry out the enterprise.

I wished to make some remarks on a subject in which I am more directly interested; but other occasions will arise when I will be afforded an opportunity to express my views. I am quite ready, as I said at the beginning, to give the Government the same support now that I have given them in the past, not only in the adoption of the Address but as to their policy generally.

HON. MR. BELLEROSE.—While I do not observe in the Speech from the Throne measures of such importance announced as in years past, some of them are certainly important, but as to those it would be premature to express an opinion now. They will come before Parliament in good time and we will then be able to say whether they are of such a character that we can support them or not.

I rise on this occasion mainly to express my regret that the ordinary practice of having the mover of the Address speak in one of the two official languages, and the seconder in the other, has been departed from this year. If this were the only objection, certainly, I should not have risen to protest against it, because I do not consider it of sufficient importance to occupy the time of the House; but it must be borne in mind that we are still without a representative of the French Canadian race on the treasury benches of this House, or any Minister who can explain the measures that come before us in our own language. We are deprived of this constitutional right and we are forced to discuss the important questions submitted to us, in a language which is not our own. Under the circumstances, it is not only our right, but it is our duty to protest against this injustice to the