

cannot all, any more in this place than outside, entertain the same appreciation of the works and achievements of the present government, but there is one thing that here, as well as elsewhere, no one can reasonably deny to this government; that is, that under their administration, public affairs have grown and prospered in a manner, not only unprecedented and unexpected, but also most remarkable. The constant growing expansion of our commerce since the advent of the Laurier government has reached such a figure that the receipts of the public treasury for the last nine months are sufficient to cover the expenditures from the consolidated fund, for the National Transcontinental Railway, expenses on account of capital, special services, and all other disbursements of the country, leaving a surplus of \$3,000,000 applicable to a reduction of the public debt.

These eloquent words of the representative of His Majesty, founded on the unanswerable argument of figures, establishes at the same time the measure of our prosperity and the mead of praise which the government has a right to expect for the accomplishment of that happy result. Further comment on my part could only diminish the real force of the first part of the speech from the Throne.

The country has a right to hope that the government will appreciate that this great expansion, this unexampled development of our wealth, of our industries and of our commerce, imposes new obligations, greater responsibilities and a redoubling of energy and of vigilance and of new efforts, and I do not think I am violating tradition or conventionalities in affirming that the record of the present government is such that the country may entertain the hope that they will not fail to assure us of a continuation of our material progress.

The constantly increasing volume of immigration suitable to the needs, to the abilities and to the aspirations of the Canadian nation constitutes a legitimate subject of rejoicing and will contribute in a large measure to the development and the general progress of the country, and the problem which present itself of peopling our vast domains yet unexplored raises at present as it probably will in years to come, new difficulties, there is good ground to be-

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lieve that the genius of our people, their ambition and their patriotism will prevail and easily find a solution. Thus the present mission of the hon. Postmaster General to Japan will have, we can believe, for a result the disappearance of the uneasiness created by the opposition of our fellow citizens in British Columbia to the entrance of certain orientals into their province.

His Excellency informs us that the disputes between the United States and Newfoundland concerning fishery rights, rights and disputes which interest Canada, have been submitted to the tribunal of the Hague. A wise diplomacy, let us hope, will inspire that great peace tribunal to find an equitable and just solution of the rival contentions raised by that incident.

All classes of our society have learned with great satisfaction that the postal revenues, as we are told by His Excellency the Governor General, have continued to rapidly increase. They will see in that increase not only proof of excellent management of that important branch of our public administration, but also a corroboration of other and numerous proofs of our prosperity, and at the same time reason to believe that the government will proceed still further with a view to giving us a reduction in the cost of postal communication.

Not less gratifying is the announcement made to us that the work of construction on the National Transcontinental Railway has been prosecuted as rapidly as possible, notwithstanding the difficulty of procuring labourers and materials, and that there are already in operation 250 miles of that great artery of iron which will soon bind the coasts of the Atlantic to those of the Pacific, and which will furnish us an efficacious means of providing, at least in a large degree, for the urgent necessities of our material development.

There is also reason to believe that the government of the day, conscious of the constantly increasing commercial exigencies of the country, and anxious to assure its prosperity by utilizing all its natural resources, will give its earnest and most serious consideration to the projected Georgian Bay canal, to which, in the interests of the country as well as of the capital which I have had the honour to represent in the Commons for nearly twelve years. I