

see such a question divested of all party aspect. Whatever may be our views with respect to the personnel of the administration, we ought to approach it in a Canadian spirit, as men identified with the welfare and prosperity of our common country. (Hear, hear.)

The next topic is only secondary in importance to that of which I have just spoken, and that is the improvement and enlargement of the canal system. I rejoice to see that so much has been accomplished in this direction although I am sorry that there is no mention made of another very desirable project, and that is, the Caughnawaga Canal, which must attract so large a portion of western traffic the moment it is completed. Some may think that some of those works might be postponed for the present—the Bay Verte for instance—but we must not look on these questions from a local stand point—as affecting a particular locality or section, but we should lay aside all sectional or provincial feelings in view of the decided public benefits which must result from the accomplishment of these works. I consider the Bay Verte Canal as the natural complement of the St. Lawrence system of navigation. Considerable trade would doubtless take that way from the West to the Eastern States. As to the other questions mentioned in the Speech, I need not dwell on them at any length. We must express our gratification in hearing that such energetic efforts are being made to attract immigration. Unless we can get population we cannot make much headway with all the public works we are contemplating. As soon as we have population we will see the fertile valley of the Saskatchewan studded with farms. I hope, I may add in connection with this matter, that we will also see the navigation of that distant river opened up, as for the present it will afford a decided boon. I need not say much with respect to the census; it is simply a matter of detail; no difference of opinion can exist on that point, and certainly it is very satisfactory to hear that this great work is approaching completion. The statements with regard to the consolidation and amendment of the laws must meet with general approval. I am quite sure that it is the universal opinion that some amendment is required in the election law. We have had some experience in Ontario and Great Britain of the workings of the new system, but we have also seen that even the Bench in this country is not always free from political influences. I trust, however, that whatever measure the Gov-

ernment may bring down will be acceptable to the whole country. The other measures to which reference is made must also meet with our approbation. I cannot refrain from expressing the pleasure which I feel in hearing that the finances of the Dominion are in so very satisfactory a condition. Under these circumstances we may well agree with His Excellency that he has entered upon the discharge of his high duties at a very auspicious period —“at a period when the prospects of the country appear so full of promise.”—(Cheers.)

Hon. Mr. COCHRANE—I have much pleasure in seconding the answer to the Address, although I do not intend saying more than a few words after the able remarks to which we have just listened. We all, I feel assured, join with His Excellency in his expressions with respect to this country. We all feel that it is our desire to associate ourselves with him in promoting the prosperity of the Dominion. The important measures mentioned in the Speech will, I am confident, receive the fullest consideration of this House. (Hear, hear.)

Hon. Mr. LEFELIER DE ST. JUST.—I feel bound as a member of this House not to give any factious opposition to the passage of the Address. Certainly had it not been for the preamble to the hon. gentleman's speech, not an objection could be fairly taken to his remarks in moving the Answer. On the contrary, I think he is deserving of every compliment for the manner in which he has acquitted himself. I cordially reciprocate his remarks with respect to His Excellency. As the topics mentioned in the Address will come up for discussion at another time, I do not intend referring to them specially at the present stage. As the hon. gentleman has said himself we cannot but congratulate ourselves that the Dominion has been honored by the presence of the new Governor General, that a nobleman of such high ability has been entrusted with the Government. As to the measures in the Speech we know nothing as yet about their merits. There was a law passed last Session to give an enormous power to the Government with respect to the Canada Pacific Railway. If I have objected to this enterprise it was not because I considered it useless. I believed then as now that we were going far beyond our means. As to the necessity of opening up communication with the Northwest I have always said the sooner it was done the better for the interests of the country. I consider, however, the passage of this Address is only a