

mutual respect and fraternity which bind together the different nationalities of this country. The sight of the descendants of the victorious and defeated on the Plains of Abraham fraternizing and mingling their flags on that famous battle-field where their ancestry so bravely fought, involved a lesson of tolerance and history, which I may say, moved the entire world. It showed how men whose ancestors were bitter enemies have become loyal friends, owing to a wise and liberal policy, and have united their strength and their varied aptitudes to insure the progress and welfare of their country.

I cannot refrain from acknowledging the broadness of thought and the tact displayed by His Excellency and those who helped him to accomplish his difficult task, in order to soften the effect of memory which might have been too painful and justified certain apprehensions, which, after all, were not unreasonable. His Excellency has once more given a striking proof of his benevolent and kind disposition, which renders him so dear to all classes of our population.

The speech from the Throne promises to submit to our consideration measures concerning the Intercolonial Railway, the insurance system, the civil service, immigration, Hudson Bay Railway, and other matters worthy of our attention.

The question of the civil service is one of the most important. There is no doubt that an honest administration conducted by intelligent and zealous civil servants has a great influence on the welfare of the country. It has often been said that if France has been able to withstand the evil results of the instability of its governments, it is due in great part to the integrity and stability of her administration.

The investigations initiated by the government have brought to light deplorable abuses which have grieved all those who have at heart the interest and honour of the country. Abuses seem to be inherent to the administration of public affairs. They have existed at all times, under all governments, and even under Democratic and Republican institutions. They must be corrected by severe laws, no doubt, but also by education and example, the example of integrity in the leading classes and also by

giving to the public servants salaries sufficient to protect them from all temptation. We must by all means repress such abuses as have been made public, but I think that distinction should be made between the acts of high officials who are well paid, and of those whose inadequate salaries expose them to dangerous temptations, especially when they are entrusted imprudently with the handling of considerable sums of money. We must take into consideration the weakness of human nature, and endeavour especially to prevent a repetition of such faults and abuses.

The question of immigration will also receive our attention. There was a time when it was said that our public men were not zealous enough to attract to our shores the immigrants required to develop the resources of our country, and when the government was urged to adopt measures similar to those taken by American statesmen to increase the population of that country. Complaints are now made that immigration is too considerable, that it has become a danger to the country; at the same time large employers of labour contend that they are in need of more hands to carry out their extensive enterprises. However, I am happy to see that the government understands that it is not so much the number as the quality of the immigrants which should be considered. We need above all settlers, tillers of the soil, that agricultural class which has been at all times the strength, the bone and sinew of the country, the most powerful element in the progress and greatness of a nation. Agriculture is an inexhaustible source of moral, religious and patriotic strength, where humanity does not cease to acquire new vigour, to vivify itself, to fortify itself; which affords to a nation the most durable wealth, which gives the country vigorous soldiers to defend it, and powerful statesmen to lead it. The agricultural class is becoming more and more the element of order and peace, a bulwark against the pernicious theories which threaten the future of society. A settler, a ploughman, is in my opinion worth more for the welfare and prosperity of a country than ten other men. We can never make too many sacrifices to secure such immigration. We can never make enough.