

to use their fish, while the people of the west are beginning to learn that it is to their advantage to buy their fish from the people who live by the sea. Should the United States refuse to make a treaty under which their people could fish on our shores and ours have free access to their markets, I believe that the time is not far distant when our fishermen, having found a home market for their products, will be unwilling to return to the state of affairs which had previously existed. The same principle of national policy which governs other matters would then come in play. We should then have a protection for our fishermen, whose fish will be consumed in large quantities by our people, while foreign markets of equal value to those of the United States might be found in other portions of the world. Mr. Speaker, I trust that every effort will be made to settle this matter in the way indicated in the Speech from the Throne, and if the people of the United States are not willing to make a treaty with us, that every effort will be made to protect our fisheries, so that we may have the advantages which nature has given us, and which the laws of the country should entitle us to enjoy. I wish it were in my power to take up some of the facts and figures which I have had in my possession in connection with the fishery matter, but I have not got them with me, as I did not expect to be called upon to use them. But when this fishery question comes up I have no doubt that some gentlemen who may be entrusted with the matter will be able to show to this House some facts and figures that will astonish it. I tell you, Mr. Speaker, that the fishing industry of this country is an important industry, more important, perhaps, than some hon. members may think. If the people of the United States are debarred from fishing along our coast, they will have to pay the duty which will be imposed on that fish, because I do not believe that they have got fish enough in their own waters to supply their own demands. In another paragraph His Excellency has promised that some measure will be submitted this Session for simplifying transfers of land in the North-West, and some other Acts are promised in relation to matters with which I am not very well acquainted, and, therefore, I will not attempt to discuss them. I would, however, refer to the proposal to give the North-West a representation in this Parliament. I am pleased to find that a census has been taken in those territories, and that it is the intention of the Government to introduce a measure to enable the people of the North-West to be represented on the floors of Parliament. I am glad of that, because I think it highly proper that our fellow-citizens, no matter where they are living, should be able to select some one to speak for them in this House, and to deal with the various measures in which they are interested, so that they may stand on common ground with the other Provinces of the Dominion. I regret, Sir, that although the estimates of last year have been fully met by the receipts, the expenditures of last year have been so much greater than was anticipated. I have no doubt this extra expense has been largely incurred by the war in the North-West, and although I do not profess to know very much upon the subject, I can see no reason why this war debt should not be met in some other manner than by taking it out of the Consolidated Fund. It seems to me that it might properly form a portion of the debt of the country instead of being taken from that fund. Now, Sir, I fear that I have, perhaps, unduly trespassed upon the time of the House by speaking so long. I thank you, Mr. Speaker, most heartily for the privilege you have accorded me; I thank the House for the attention which hon. members have given me, and I now move the adoption of the following Address in answer to the Speech from the Throne:—

That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General to thank His Excellency for his gracious Speech at the opening of the present Session, and further to assure His Excellency:—

Mr. EVERETT.

That we receive with much pleasure His Excellency's congratulations on the sufficient harvest of last year and on the prosperity and substantial progress of the country.

That we feel great satisfaction in knowing that since the suppression of the insurrection in the North-West Territories peace and order have been restored and now prevail; and that we are aware that after so serious an outbreak some disquiet and apprehension of the recurrence of those disorders may naturally be expected to linger, and that it will be the duty of His Excellency's Government to make such precautionary arrangements as will assure the present inhabitants, as well as intending settlers of efficient protection against all disturbance.

That we are glad that His Excellency has occasion to warmly congratulate us on the practical completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and on the announcement that it will be open for the daily carriage of passengers and freight from Ocean to Ocean, in the month of June next. That we feel with His Excellency that this great work, so important alike to the Empire and the Dominion, cannot fail to increase the trade between British Columbia and the other Provinces, to ensure the early development and settlement of Manitoba and the North-West, and greatly to add to the commercial prosperity of the whole country.

That should the negotiations between Her Majesty's Government and that of the United States for the appointment of a Joint Commission to adjust what is known as "The Fishery Question" and to consider the best means of developing our International Commerce, fail to secure any satisfactory result, we shall be ready to make such provision for the protection of our Inshore Fisheries by the extension of our present system of Marine Police as may be necessary for that purpose.

That the measures submitted to us last Session for the consolidation of the Statutes and for the introduction into the North-West Territories of a more simple and economical system for the transfer of land, which His Excellency informs us will be again laid before us for consideration and legislative action, will receive our best attention; and that we learn with satisfaction that the Acts of last Session will be found to be included in the first of those measures.

That we shall willingly consider the expediency of improving the judiciary system which obtains in the North-West Territories.

That we shall carefully consider the propriety of amending the law relating to the business of the Queen's Printer and of providing for the more satisfactory working of the present system of Government and Parliamentary printing.

That we are pleased to learn that a numerical census of the North-West Territories has been taken and that a measure based thereon for the representation of the people in Parliament will be laid before us.

That any other measures which may be laid before us, for providing for a better mode of trial of claims against the Crown, for regulating Post Office Savings Banks in British Columbia and the North-West Territories, for expediting the issue of patents for Indian Lands, for the administration of the rights of the Crown in the foreshores of the Dominion, for the establishment of an Experimental Farm, and for the amendment of the Chinese Immigration Act, shall receive our earnest attention and consideration.

That we thank His Excellency for informing us that the accounts for the past year will be laid before us. That we learn with pleasure that the estimate of receipts has been fully realised, though we regret that the outbreak in the North-West has added largely to the expenditure of the country.

That we shall respectfully consider the Estimates for the ensuing year to be submitted to us, and that we thank His Excellency for assuring us they have been prepared with due regard to economy and the requirements of the Public Service.

That His Excellency may rest assured that the several subjects he has mentioned, and any others which may engage our attention, shall receive our best consideration, and that we earnestly trust, with His Excellency, that the result of our deliberations may, under the Divine Blessing, conduce to the advancement and prosperity of Canada.

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker: I have listened attentively and with much pleasure to the remarks that have fallen from the hon. member representing the city and county of St. John (Mr. Everett). The hon. gentleman has dealt in a very exhaustive manner with the matters referred to in the Speech from the Throne, and I feel I need not detain the House at any great length in further discussing them; but I would ask hon. gentlemen to extend to me that courteous forbearance which is usually extended to those who occupy my position. The first, and I think the most important thing to notice in the Speech from the Throne, is its reference to the agricultural prosperity of the Dominion. Agriculture is altogether the most useful of all the arts, and upon the culture of the soil the well-being of the country, to a larger extent than upon any other single industry, depends. Although the price of agricultural products which are, in the main, governed by the English markets, has not lately, either in the United States or in Canada, been very high, yet the purchasing power of the produce of the farm is as great now as at any other period in our history. The farmer, by taking his cereals into the market, can procure in exchange therefor as many of the