

with all the powers that belong to a Sovereign. He is possessed of limited powers, and, that being the case, is not a Viceroy. Two things are necessary to make him such. The one is that a regular Government shall exist under his authority, and the other is that all the powers belonging to the sovereign who is at the head of that Government shall, for the time being, be intrusted to him. I merely mention this because the expression is introduced into the speech of His Excellency to Parliament for the first time, and it is just as well that no mistake should be made upon the subject. But leaving that aside altogether, what is important is to consider what are the measures of practical consequence which the Government propose to bring down. Now, the first and most important is the revision of the tariff, and yet the Government, up to this hour, have not given to the House the slightest information on the subject. Why, we have had for a long series of years the declaration, on the part of Ministers of the Crown, that the tariff was put upon a sound and proper economic basis in 1879—that all the revision the tariff required was that which experience would suggest of a minor character, and which necessarily sprung from the imperfections existing in subordinate matters with which the Ministry could not be supposed to be acquainted—but that these were from time to time corrected and the tariff more and more improved, until we find that since we were here last the Government have sent members of the ministry all over the country to inquire what was wrong with the tariff. This measure, which has been under the consideration of the Government for fifteen years, which has been revised by them, about which they have received almost every month in every year deputations pointing out defects and asking for changes—after discussing this measure in some thirteen sessions, they sent a commission all over the country, and now we are informed by His Excellency—that if this paragraph means anything—notwithstanding all these provisions and all this care, the tariff is so imperfect that now it must undergo radical changes—that the machine has been improved until it is no longer practical and workable, that the country will not have it, and says it is necessary to make it something very different. I think we are entitled to have some statement of the Minister of what the changes, in general outline, were which he intended to make. We do not call for a discussion of the changes in detail; we shall have that when the Budget comes down, but when the hon. gentleman thought proper to put a paragraph like that into the Governor's speech, we require some general exposition of what the Government meant by this paragraph, either from a Minister of the Crown or from one of the hon. gentlemen who were asked to move and second the Address. Then the Government has put in a paragraph congratulating the country on

its good fortune in the matter of the Behring Sea dispute, as disposed of by the arbitration at Paris. It seems to me that, so far as the questions of public law are concerned, there could not be very much room for very wide difference of opinion. A more untenable position than that taken by our neighbours across the border upon a public question could not well have been taken, and so if we had had a decision upon that question we would have had the declaration that our American neighbours were in the wrong, and from such decision there would naturally have flowed the rights of redress which the existence of that wrong would have suggested. But, what has happened at this Paris arbitration? Why, simply this: Our friends on the other side of the House have said to the American Government, in effect: Your contention was all wrong; you have committed trespass upon the high sea; you have violated our rights of person and property; but it is very important that this fact should be made clear and that what you have done should be hereafter made a proper and legal proceeding. Now what has been done, in effect? Formerly, when the Canadian sealer went out upon the Pacific ocean to engage in the business of seal-catching, he was within his rights, notwithstanding the violent conduct on the part of the United States. To-day, if he goes out for such a purpose, regulations having been made, and being now in force, he is a wrong-doer; and the rules which the United States undertook to enforce illegally against him, may be legally enforced against him from this time forward. We have got nothing except the barren declaration that our seal-catchers were acting within their rights. The American Government has gained this—that hereafter, if our seal catchers undertake to do what they have done before, they will be trespassers against the regulation of public law, so far as the citizens of the two countries are concerned, and will be liable to punishment for their wrong-doing. You make the conduct of the Canadians, as it has been in the past, illegal for the future; and you make the arbitrary proceedings of the United States legal and proper proceedings against those who were legitimately pursuing a legitimate calling. There is another matter. I think this House was entitled to a declaration of what the Government intended to do on the subject of the French treaty. This treaty, it is true, is a little affair. No great public interest is involved in it; but it is extremely vexatious. If it were put into operation, it would give a great deal of trouble without conferring any special advantage upon any portion of the community. Now, what do the Government propose to do with it? They have had something like twelve months to consider this question. When the House prorogued at the end of last session, the Government were not sure