

enjoyed a most prosperous season. I think it is necessary to make these remarks, because I am well aware of the fact that the hay crop and the harvest of Prince Edward Island last year were very far from good.

I occupy a position myself this year which enables me to speak on this point with some confidence. I have been a commissioner of the provincial exhibition, and I am aware that the samples of grain were not by any means as good as is usually the case. In former years we sent samples to Paris, Philadelphia, Montreal and St. John, which were scarcely to be excelled in any part of the Dominion. I think I may say with confidence that there was very little grain exhibited in those places very much superior to that grown in Prince Edward Island. Whether it may be from the industry of our farmers (for that I think is very generally recognized by those who have been acquainted with our country) or from whatsoever cause, the samples were remarkably good at St. John, Montreal and other places at which they were exhibited. The crops of roots also, from which a large portion of our wealth used to be derived, were defective last year. Probably the same causes which affected the hay crop and the cereals also affected them, and although the price of potatoes was exceedingly high, we were not in a position to benefit largely by that rise.

It is stated in a paragraph that our "manufacturing and other industries have been and continue to be developed under favorable auspices." I daresay that paragraph may commend itself to those who believe in the benefits of the National Policy. For my part I rejoice when I see established in Canada any branch of manufacturing industry which is supported on its own merits, but when I know that the manufacturing industries of Canada whatever prosperity they enjoy, whether it be much or little, is due to protective duties and the exclusion of competition from other countries, I must take exception to the general character of this remark.

I quite agree with the propriety which has led the Minister to introduce into the speech from the Governor-General at the opening of Parliament, the subject of the loss of the Chief Magistrate of the United States. I think it is a subject which may most properly be enlarged upon by the

Chief Magistrate of the Dominion, but it is one on which as a private individual, although I may feel as strongly on the subject as any one, I do not feel it necessary to dwell. I regret the loss of President Garfield, the more so because I believe he was a thoroughly patriotic man, but the subject is better left in the hands of His Excellency and the Government.

But when we come to the paragraphs in the Speech from the Throne which refer to the North-West, one feels at once that the Governor General is then speaking his own experience, and the experience of a gentleman who has made a journey under the best opportunities for observing, and whose natural intelligence led him also to make correct observations. Therefore, whatever opinions are expressed by him, we naturally look to them with the greatest respect and confidence. I only hope myself that the expectations which have been entertained by most classes of this community with regard to the North-West will be speedily realized. There is not a doubt that Canada, after the great vicissitudes she has gone through, requires now the assistance of the piece of good fortune which it is anticipated has fallen to her lot in possessing these North-West Territories. But there may be one or two points connected with the administration of affairs which may be very properly touched upon by members of this House. I think that one great source of prosperity is to be found in opening up good and cheap means of communication throughout that Territory. Without that it is not possible that you can offer very great attraction to immigrants. Another is that your land regulations should be well considered. It is undesirable, in my judgment, that land regulations should be subject to frequent changes. A liberal policy should be adopted for promoting immigration, and having been adopted, it should not be modified except for adequate cause. I think, speaking of the subject of immigration from Europe to the North-West, that no great fears need be entertained as to the expenditure for that purpose; because it must be perfectly obvious, and the fact is recognized in the United States and elsewhere, that an adult immigrant arriving on the shores of this continent, whether in Canada or the United States, is a valuable addition to the wealth of the community