

of expressing myself in the beautiful language of no unimportant section of the population of this Dominion. This privilege of speaking in both the English and French languages will indicate always, I trust, the good understanding and harmony that should not cease to exist amongst us, and will be one of the numerous monuments which will attest forever the generous liberality of the Canadian people. We are particularly happy in having had as the interpreter of our sentiments of loyalty towards our Sovereign—as well in relation to the progress we have made as to our colonial wants and interests—a man so justly esteemed and so perfectly acquainted with the various subjects as His Excellency the Governor General. The interest that he has shown in the Dominion, in visiting the principal parts of it, is for us a proper subject of felicitation, and for him a valuable source of useful information, which he has applied for our benefit at the foot of the Throne. No doubt many prejudices have been dissipated and a more exact knowledge obtained of our manners, of our resources, of our climate and of the different advantages that we can offer to the emigrant.

This should tend to remove any objections to the country that may have existed despite the efforts already made. And assuredly for this purpose no voice could be more authoritative than that of His Excellency. At the same time it is but strict justice to declare here that our esteemed First Minister deserves also our sincere thanks for the services he so nobly and efficaciously rendered in Great Britain during his recent visit to that country.

Allusion is made in one of the paragraphs of the Speech to the stagnation of business due to the crisis which is so severely felt in this country. These volcanic eruptions in commerce are periodical, and have been experienced in all ages and at all times. The history of the world furnishes us with many examples, and, deplorable as the fact may be, still they are almost necessary to purify the financial atmosphere, in removing out the way all that does not rest on a solid basis. But that prudence which has prevailed over recent operations, more particularly since last autumn, joined to the abundance of the late harvest and the numerous public works which are about being executed all over the Dominion, lead us to believe that before long all danger will have disap-

peared, and all inquietude have passed away.

The early completion of the Prince Edward Island and Intercolonial railways is a happy event, and one destined to have grand results. Quickness of transit effaces distance, consequent intercourse binds closely and permanently commercial relations which have been hitherto difficult, and dissipates completely previous prejudices; and, moreover, these grand commercial arteries will bring with them life to the Provinces they traverse, and are indispensable to the general well being.

We are very much pleased to see the Government intend to introduce a Bill to give better guarantees to holders of Life Assurance policies. That is certainly one of the most useful, economic measures that could be proposed. Guided by the happy results of prudent legislation in England and the United States, we shall save to an important part of our population millions, on which their future depends, and shall encourage this kind of provision being made—savings destined to alleviate so much suffering and to dry so many tears. How many among us justify their apathy in regard to these societies, by pointing to the want of sufficient guarantee that they seem to offer? Let us hasten to reassure them by a good law, which, offering a solid basis for confidence, will induce our population to protect itself against every caprice of fortune, and against even common accident. We shall thus have produced an immense good. For on taking the figures as given in the official reports upon upwards of of \$86,000,000 of life assurance in Canada, foreign companies appear at the head of our own institutions. To signal this fact is to indicate the remedy, and I am persuaded that the Government will show itself equal to the task.

An unfortunate delay on the part of the Washington Government deprives us of the satisfaction of hearing that the question of compensation due in virtue of the Washington Treaty has been settled. It is with pride that we can congratulate ourselves that we have not offered any obstruction ourselves, the Imperial Government having, on the demand of our Canadian Ministers, nominated our Commissioner. Let us hope that in a very short time this question will be settled in a satisfactory manner.

The creation of a Supreme Court and Court of Exchequer, completing our judicial hierarchy, was a necessity of our