

foundations of a new political organization, that it should belong to one of our veteran politicians, to one of those who have traced the great lines of our Constitution, to come before you and explain how the legislation, now asked of this Parliament, is connected with past legislation; to explain to you its real meaning, and make you understand its character. It seems to me that this task should not have devolved on a young member, who, like myself, appears for the first time within these precincts. Nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, I well understand that it is not for me at the *début* of my political career, on my entry within these precincts, to criticise an old custom which has always been adopted, and which must have some good reason for its existence. This is the reason why I accepted the difficult task which has been assigned to me. Convinced as I am that, if I cannot instruct you by my experience, I will have at least the advantage of edifying you by the good disposition which I have manifested in accepting my share of the duties which are imposed on me as one of the members of the national representation. The document which is submitted for our consideration, Mr. Speaker, embraces matters which may be classed in three categories of different subjects; first of all, it contains a retrospective review of past legislation, and makes known its result on the general condition of the country. Secondly, it details the subjects which are to be submitted for our consideration and which may be divided into two classes: firstly, subjects which refer principally to the material prosperity of the country, and secondly, subjects which refer to the moral and intellectual condition of the population. The first sentiment which I see expressed in His Excellency's Speech, is also one which this House should make it a duty to express in the name of the country, that is the satisfaction which we experience with the selection of the new Governor General called to preside over the destinies of the country for some years to come. In appointing His Excellency the Marquis of Lansdowne to this important trust, the Home Government has given us another proof of the interest which it takes in the material development of the country. The choice of the most distinguished men, who have attained eminent positions in the Mother Country, gives us an estimate of the interest which the Imperial Government takes in us, and of its desire to see the material progress of this country keep pace with that of the United Kingdom. Before passing from this subject I believe it is my duty, and in so doing, I but echo the voice of this Chamber and of the country, to thank the late Governor General, the Marquis of Lorne, for the special interest which he manifests in our behalf, in England, today. During his beneficent administration of the affairs of the country, the Marquis of Lorne took the means to identify himself with our interests, to familiarize himself with our resources and wants; and now that he has returned to the Mother Country, I see that he seems to consecrate all his efforts, and all his energy to make known, on the Continent, the progress of our country, and to induce the surplus European population to come and settle amongst us. I thank him in the name of this House and in the name of the country. The time is well chosen to commence this propaganda. There has just been held in London a Universal Fishery Exhibition, in which our country had a most favourable and special opportunity of making known its resources. This exhibition, which was opened in the middle of last July, lasted five months. Twenty-five nations took part in it. It was opened by the Prince of Wales in person, an evidence of the interest which the English Government takes, not only in the development of her colonies, but also in the development of the interests of the entire world. Nearly 40,000 persons were present at the opening, and nearly 4,000,000 visited it during its continuance. Mr. Speaker, in so important an exhibition, in the midst of so many competitors, it is a great pleasure and a great honour to know that Canada came out of this exhibition third in

rank. The gold and silver medals which we won were not, it is true, as numerous as those obtained by the United States; but this is explained by the fact that the Americans figured at the exhibition both as a nation and as individuals. For this reason the number of medals was greater in favour of the United States; but I believe there is an accord of public opinion that the Canadian exhibition, in its entirety, as in its details, was superior to that of our neighbours across the line. If we reflect, Mr. Speaker, that we have a capital of more than \$3,000,000 invested in this industry, that we have a population of about 30,000 persons engaged in our fisheries, and nearly 800 ships and 11,000 fishing smacks; if we reflect that this industry yields to the country a revenue of \$6,000,000 to \$8,000,000, we will understand its importance and the great necessity to contribute to its development. And I venture to think that the result of our efforts will be to make known to the world the value of our fisheries, and, at the same time, ameliorate the moral, intellectual and material condition of our fishermen. I think, Mr. Speaker, that it is my duty ere passing from this subject, to bestow my congratulations, my compliments on the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries, for the success which has attended his efforts at the exhibition. It is a worthy reward for the zeal and energy which he has displayed; and I think it is only just to associate with his name that of the hon. member from Gaspé, who is sometimes called the King of Gaspesia, a title which he justly deserves by reason of the devotion which he manifests in the interests of that section, and by the legitimate influence which he has there acquired. I observed a few moments ago that the times are favourable to push the work of emigration. In referring to statistics, and according to the information which I have been able to gather, I calculate, as the hon. member from Glengarry (Mr. Macmaster) has remarked, that the number of emigrants this year has been three times as great as it was two years ago, and this emigration has two special characteristics: firstly it embraces a considerable contingent coming from the continent of Europe, which is one of the best proofs of the interest taken in our country; and this will the more induce us to hope that this emigration directed to our continent, stimulated by the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, by the resources which will be found in our country, will go on increasing, and will eventually fill up the vast plains which we reserve for European emigration. Another characteristic of this emigration, is that of those 133,000 emigrants, nearly 40,000 came from the United States; and among these 40,000 there were 12,000 French Canadians who returned to the North-West, which means to our country. It is well understood Mr. Speaker, that not only in this House, but also in the Legislature of the Province of Quebec, a desire has been expressed that the Government should make some effort to repatriate our fellow subjects. I think that one of the most efficacious means which the Government could employ to attain this end, is to demonstrate to them that they have a better future in this country than in the United States; that here they can find the means to maintain themselves and their families, and that, at all events, if they cannot find these means in the Province of Quebec, that they can, at least, in the North-West. There, at least, they will have the consolation of being at home and of living under their own laws, and under the constitution of their native country. All this, Mr. Speaker, points to a very satisfactory state of things, and we are not surprised to see the Speech from the Throne announce that the financial state of the country is in a most prosperous state, and that the surplus for the past year amounts to over \$7,000,000. The Speech from the Throne alludes in a few words to the question of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and at this time I should desire to have, for this great question, the experience which the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals possesses. I should