

We are glad to hear from His Excellency that the depression in trade which has prevailed throughout the world for the past few years has made itself felt in Canada to a less degree than in most other countries. We regret, however, to learn that, although this has not resulted in any considerable decrease in the volume of our foreign trade, yet that, owing to low prices and recent reductions in and removal of taxation, it has been followed by a serious decrease in revenue derived from Customs and Excise. We respectfully concur in His Excellency's opinion that in order to produce equilibrium between revenue and expenditure for the coming year, it will be necessary to observe the greatest possible economy in the appropriations for the various branches of the public service.

We are greatly pleased to hear that, during the period that has elapsed since the last Session of Parliament, Your Excellency had an opportunity of visiting many portions of the Dominion, including the Maritime Provinces, Manitoba, the North-west Territories and British Columbia; that throughout these tours Your Excellency was impressed and gratified by manifestations of an abounding loyalty and public spirit; and that, notwithstanding the phase of trade depression already referred to, you observed everywhere unmistakable signs of that confident hopefulness in the future, based on a thorough belief in the greatness of the resources of Canada, which, you are graciously pleased to say, is one of the characteristics of her people and furnishes a good augury and pledge of further development and progress.

We receive with a deep sense of their importance Your Excellency's statements that the Government of Newfoundland having intimated its desire to renew negotiations looking to the admission of that colony into the Dominion of Canada, a sub-committee of Your Excellency's advisers have recently met in conference a delegation from the Island Government and discussed with them the terms of union, and that it will be a subject of general congratulation if the negotiations now pending result in the incorporation of Her Majesty's oldest colonial possession into the Canadian Confederation.

We thank Your Excellency for the information that measures relating to bankruptcy and insolvency and to joint stock companies will be laid before us, and that we shall be asked to consider certain amendments to the Insurance Act, to the Act respecting Dominion Notes, to the Dominion Lands Act, to the Indian Act, to the North-west Territories Representation Act, and also a Bill respecting the land subsidy of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. Your Excellency may rest assured that all these matters will receive our most careful consideration.

In entering upon the discharge of the important duties devolving upon us, we join Your Excellency in an earnest prayer that being guided by the spirit of wisdom and patriotism our deliberations may, under the divine blessing, conduce to the unity and well-being of Canada.

He said: When asked to accept the honour of moving the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, it was with much trepidation and many misgivings that I consented to make the attempt; and for any shortcomings or imperfections in my effort to discharge the duty which has been assigned me, I crave the indulgence and kind consideration of this honourable House. Of one thing I can assure you, and that is, that I have the best possible intention to spare you the infliction of a lengthy and in

all probability desultory speech, and myself the mortification of making so grave a mistake, and in order the better to secure this very desirable end, I shall confine myself pretty closely if not exclusively, to my manuscript, all the more so, that the Speech from the Throne treats of some topics of which I simply dare not trust myself to speak extemporaneously. It must be gratifying I think to the members of this honourable House as an integral portion of the Parliament of Canada, to observe the prominence given by the Queen's representative in the opening clause of the Speech, to the expression of his sense of the value of the advice and assistance which he expects to receive from both Houses, in the administration of the affairs of the Dominion, and so his recognition of the value of our system of government. And, now, I come to a portion of the Speech to which I wish I could speak as I fain would. In the very forefront, in the place in which we should expect to find it, stands His Excellency's eloquent and touching reference to the sudden and lamented death of the Right Honourable Sir John Thompson, with all the sad circumstances attendant upon which we are now unhappily so familiar.

Tragic in its awful suddenness, as well as in many of its surroundings, was the untimely taking off of our late so honoured and beloved premier, when he had just reached the acme of his prosperous and distinguished career. Having heard the voice of his earthly sovereign, and having just passed from her presence, after she had conferred upon him one of the highest honours within the power of even her hand to bestow, he heard the call of the King of Kings, and the Lord of Lords, and to-day our late honoured and beloved premier wears the insignia of an order, higher far than is embraced in all the heraldry of earthly kingdoms and courts, insignia whose radiant lustre not all the attrition of the rolling cycles of eternal ages shall ever dim or tarnish. Yes! His glorious sun did in very deed go down at high noon, and who shall say what the alas now for ever unwritten record of his life might have embraced, of the great and noble in purpose and in achievement, had he been spared to us and to his country. In his death Canada has indeed sustained a grievous loss. Fruitful mother as she is, of honoured, eminent, and worthy sons, she can ill-afford to lose from the family register,