

gating this subject of fishing, and those commissions have made careful and elaborate reports, which I presume are in our Library; and I have an impression that the Government will get about as much information out of those reports as they will from the report of their own Commissioners.

The next paragraph of the Speech declares that it is the intention of the Government to submit a measure with regard to the rights of the Dominion in its foreshores, harbors, lakes and rivers, for the purpose of removing uncertainty as to the respective rights of the Dominion and of the Provinces, and for preventing confusion in the titles thereto. It would be a most desirable thing that all confusion with respect to the titles of the Dominion and the Provinces in these foreshores and waters should be removed; but I fail to see how any measure which emanates from the Dominion Parliament can settle the questions which have arisen. The difficulties with respect to these matters arise under the construction of the British North America Act. The provincial authorities construe the Act in one way and the Dominion authorities construe it in another way; and how a measure passed by this Parliament can materially affect the position I cannot see. The more desirable way would be first to try and secure a decision by the highest tribunals as to the respective rights of the Dominion and Provinces, and then, having got that decision, legislate so as to carry it out; but I fail to see how one party to a litigation can, by passing a resolution or, as in the present instance, a statute, settle the question. The other party can pass an Act settling it the other way; and in the end the question has to be settled by the Privy Council, and the better way would be to settle it there first. I must say that, as regards lands on the sea shore, convenience, cheapness and speed of transacting business are all in favor of leaving those matters in the hands of the provincial Governments, where, until very recently, they were left without any question.

As to the Labor Commission, I have very little to say. I hope that the measure which the Government proposes to introduce in pursuance of the report of the Commission may be of a better character than one of the measures passed here last

year, in which a provision was inserted curtailing to a considerable extent the privileges of trades unions. Probably one of the most important paragraphs in the Speech is that which deals with the banking Act. I hope sincerely, and with some confidence, that in dealing with this important matter the Government will act wisely; that while they act in such a way as to guarantee the security of the public, they will do it without locking up too much of the capital of the country.

I am glad to see that the Government propose to do something more for the North-West Territories, in addition to the legislation of former Sessions. The members of the Opposition here and in another place have at different times called attention to the unsatisfactory and piecemeal way in which the Government were doling out self-government to the people of the North-West Territories; and I trust that the occurrences of the past few months will lead them to go a little further than they have heretofore gone, and to let the people of the North-West Territories have true representative government and not sham representative government, as it has been in the past. I hope also that when the measure with respect to the North-West Territories is before Parliament the Government will be good enough to provide that the list of voters in the North-West Territories shall not be made up in the manner in which they have been made up hitherto; that the lists will represent the real manhood of that country.

I am pleased to see that the Government propose to go on with a measure respecting the bills of exchange and promissory notes, which, I presume, is practically the same measure as was introduced last year. It is very desirable that the law on that subject should be codified, and the Government cannot do better than to take the existing English law, with possibly a few modifications.

With respect to the Adulteration Act, I hope that the leaders of the House will be able to inform us that the Government propose, having already the means of finding out where adulteration takes place, and to what extent, to impose penalties for those acts of adulteration. It may be in one sense satisfactory to know how much poison is put into our food; but while the people who do that are allowed to go on doing it, without suffering any