

Of course we all concur in the sentiments contained in the second paragraph of the speech. Everyone who lives under the rule of Queen Victoria joins gladly in congratulations on her jubilee. Her reign has been a model one. During that time, without any revolution, in the most peaceable way possible, and almost imperceptibly, the colonies, which when she ascended the throne were Crown Colonies, or something next door to Crown Colonies, are now nearly all self governing communities, with free institutions modelled after the institutions of the mother country; and the mother country herself has succeeded in accommodating her institutions to the change of feeling throughout the world, particularly amongst English speaking races. England which, when her Majesty ascended the Throne was a limited monarchy, under an aristocratic government, has to-day almost the most democratic government in the world. There is, I suppose, no country where the will of the people makes itself felt so directly and immediately as in England. Although the country to the south of us is a republic and is supposed to be a much more democratic country than England, the fact is that the will of the people does not make itself felt in administration or legislation with anything like the same rapidity in the United States, that it does in the mother country; and to have brought about that revolution in the way in which it has been brought about, without any serious friction or any bloodshed or ill-feeling is one great achievement of Her Majesty's reign.

I may venture to express the hope that, in one section of Her Majesty's dominions where difficulties have arisen, and where at the present time things are in a very unsettled condition, such changes will take place in the near future as will put an end to all reasonable grounds for complaint; and it would be, I think, a most happy feature of the jubilee year of Her Majesty's reign if that year should be marked by the adoption of such legislation as would put an end to the dissatisfaction and discontent which have been so long chronic in Ireland.

I am very happy to learn that the prominent position which Canada took

at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition has made the Dominion more widely and favorably known than before, and that it will contribute largely to its material progress by calling attention to the advantages offered by our country to the agriculturist, and by attracting the capital necessary for the development of its great natural resources.

While on this point, I may say that I cannot understand why it is that in this country we do not succeed in attracting immigrants in the same way that they are attracted to the United States. The Government of this country spend a great deal of money with the view of attracting immigration to Canada, but the immigrants do not seem to come. In the United States the Government do not do as much in that way as they do here, but the railway companies do an immense deal. I have not yet learned that any of our Canadian railway companies have done much in the way of attracting emigrants to this country. Considering the very generous assistance which this country has given to some of the railways, the companies should do a great deal in the way of encouraging immigration—that is immigration of the right kind—and I hope that, if the Canadian Pacific Railway have not already taken steps to bring the right kind of immigrants into Canada, they will do so in the early future.

One of the most important paragraphs in the Speech is the fourth, which deals with the negotiations pending between Her Majesty's Government and that of the United States with respect to the Fisheries question. We are not in a position to discuss that question satisfactorily until we have seen the papers and correspondence in connection with it; but we may express our regret that that correspondence has not been laid before Parliament. It is a very unsatisfactory thing for a Canadian, whose country is more vitally interested in this question than either Great Britain or the United States, to find that he has to look for his information to the blue books of England and the United States. I have had the good fortune to see the English blue book on the Fisheries question, and I have also seen the American blue book; but I have not