

of the United States for the adjustment of the questions which have arisen with reference to "The Fisheries" has not been sanctioned by the United States Senate, in whom the power of ratification is vested, and that our legislation of last year on the subject is therefore in a great measure inoperative.

We also respectfully concur in Your Excellency's opinion that it now only remains for Canada to continue to maintain her rights as prescribed by the Convention of 1818, until some satisfactory re-adjustment is arranged by treaty between the two nations.

We thank Your Excellency for informing us that a measure will again be submitted to us to amend the Acts respecting the Electoral Franchise, for the purpose of simplifying the law and lessening the cost of its operation.

We are glad to be informed that it is expedient, in the interests of commerce, to assimilate, and in some particulars to amend, the laws which now obtain in the several Provinces of the Dominion relating to Bills of Exchange, Cheques, and Promissory Notes, and that a Bill with this object will be laid before us.

We thank Your Excellency for informing us that a Bill will also be provided for making uniform throughout the Dominion the laws relating to Bills of Lading.

We hear with great interest that during the recess Your Excellency's Government has carefully considered the subject of Ocean Steam Service, and that we shall be asked to provide subsidies for the improvement of the Atlantic Mail Service, and for the establishment, in concert with Her Majesty's Government, of a line of fast steamers between British Columbia and China and Japan. Our attention, which Your Excellency has been pleased to say will also be invited to the best mode of developing our trade, and securing direct communication by steam with Australasia, the West Indies and South America, shall be cheerfully given to these important subjects.

We shall carefully consider any Bill which may be submitted for our consideration for the prevention of certain offences in connection with Municipal Councils, and to give greater facilities for making inquiries as to such matters.

Your Excellency has been pleased to inform us that several measures will also be presented to us for improving the law of procedure in criminal cases, and that among these will be a Bill to permit the release on probation of persons convicted of first offences, a Bill authorizing regulations to be made for the practice in cases partaking of the nature of criminal proceedings, and a Bill to make the Speedy Trials Act applicable throughout Canada. We respectfully assure Your Excellency that they shall receive our most attentive consideration, as shall also the Bills relating to the inspection of timber and lumber, for the improvement of the Postal System, and for increasing the efficiency of the North-West Mounted Police, which Your Excellency has informed us will also be submitted for our consideration.

We are gratified to learn that the Royal Commissioners on Labor, having concluded their enquiries, Your Excellency hopes to be able to lay before us at an early day their report, with the important evidence collected by them in various parts of Canada.

Your Excellency may rest assured that these several subjects, and the others which may be brought before us, shall receive our earnest consideration, and we trust with Your Excellency that

the result of our deliberations may, under the Divine Blessing, tend to promote the well-being and prosperity of Canada.

He said: In acknowledging, as I now gratefully do, the distinguished honor devolving upon me in moving the adoption of the resolution in reply to the Address to which you have now listened, I desire to say that I am only too deeply conscious of my own inability to do justice to the subject. Many of you may have shared my feelings in the discovery that a life of active commercial engagements precludes that power of expression, that power of marshaling the thoughts in due order which go to the fulfilment of such a duty as has now devolved upon me. I should most gladly have escaped it, and have made myself a silent student of the proceeding and forms of this hon. House, had it not been that time-honored custom has placed it on the shoulders of a junior member. No alternative remains, therefore, but to throw myself on your generous forbearance, and I feel confident the appeal will not be made in vain.

We shall with one voice echo the sentiments of the reply to His Excellency's notice of the fact that this is the first occasion on which he has been associated with our deliberations and labors. We shall assure His Excellency that he is doubly welcome here, as the representative of our beloved Sovereign—and as the distinguished successor of a long list of distinguished men who have presided over the destinies of this great Dominion. Two of these have transferred their great abilities from the Capital to the greatest Colonial Empire the world has ever seen, and have exercised an almost absolute sway over more than 250,000,000 of fellow subjects. We cannot doubt that His Excellency, who has much experience as a Cabinet Minister, and more especially as President of the Board of Trade, will be successful here, and we earnestly trust that his residence among us will be prosperous and happy. It is a subject of regret that the treaty negotiated at Washington for the settlement of the Fishery dispute with the United States was rejected by the Senate of that country. It does not alleviate in the least our regret at the re-opening of a troublesome question to know that we reached in those negotiations the utmost limit of concession