

tions of the Government will be made known. It has been a matter of regret that for some years past our expenditure has exceeded our revenue, and, while it is necessary that public works should be constructed for the development of the country, it is equally necessary, for the credit of the country, that the Estimates should be so framed and expenditure so regulated, that our revenue will be sufficient to meet the expenditure. What we want is immigration and manufactories. I admit that statesmen cannot of themselves create prosperity and trade. It would be an unfortunate day for the country, if the farmer, the mechanic or the merchant were to lean entirely upon the arm of the statesman, and trust to legislation alone to make the country wealthy; but, while I state, that I believe it is the imperative duty, and comes within the province, of statesmen, by wise legislation, to open up the avenues of trade, and remove causes of depression—not to attempt to apply any cast-iron rule of fiscal policy, but to suit that policy to the condition and the circumstances of the country. Do you treat a young people in the same way as you would treat an old people? Is there no such thing as helping along youth, whether in the social life or as a colony or community? From the experience we have had, it would be well for us to consider how far statesmen can aid the industries of a country. The suggestion is thrown out as to the propriety of empowering the Government to occupy the position of life assurers. When we look around, to the Mother Country and the neighbouring Republic, and note how often the savings banks, which claim to be safe depositories of the earnings of the labouring classes, have collapsed, and, after a man has paid in his hard earned savings, congratulating himself on having protected himself and family against want, he finds himself again face to face with poverty, and obliged to renew the arduous struggle, the wisdom of the Dominion Government in opening up savings banks under its control comes home to us. If this system of savings institutions has proved a benefit, why should not life assurance under the control of the Government also work beneficially? If one is called for, the other is

more than necessary; for, in the case of savings banks, a man may obtain notice beforehand of its approaching failure, and be enabled to withdraw his deposit, but with life insurance he must continue the risk, no provision being made to enable him to withdraw the amount of his premiums. It would be wise to provide some guarantee for people who have no other means of providing for the future support of their families than through life insurance, their income being fixed, and the demands more than equal to it. I have gone very imperfectly through the various clauses in this address; this is the first time I have occupied a position of this kind. I understand the duty of the mover of the Address is simply to allude casually to the various subjects treated in it. While the outlook at present is not as bright as we might expect, owing to the great commercial depression now prevailing, still, taking a philosophical view of the matter, things are never as bad as they might be. When we look, I say, at this great country, with its great resources, at the nationalities of which our people are composed, surely we may sanguinely hope for a bright future. We have in our people the energy of the Englishman, the chivalry of old France, the dash and ingenuousness of the Irishman, the indomitable perseverance of the Scotchman, the rose, the shamrock and the thistle entwined with the *fleur de lis*, and what better combination could we expect to work out a great and glorious future. All we want is that all men who exercise an influence in this Dominion should adopt this great motto: "Country first; party afterwards." I believe I am not very sanguine when I say that this glorious future is not in the remote distance, but will be realised in a reasonable time. It is a great incentive to a public man to forget, as far as possible, the acerbities of political exigencies, and to devote his time and energy to the best interests of the country. We are a fortunate people. We are the dependency of, I may say, the most liberty-giving country in the world, for there is no country that has a freer constitution, more honourable institutions than that over which Queen Victoria reigns. I thank this House for the very