

plenteous, while in Manitoba and the North-West Territories it was one of remarkable abundance.

3. That we are pleased to be informed that the negotiations between Her Majesty's Government and that of the United States for the adjustment of what is known as "The Fishery Question," have resulted in a Treaty which we venture to hope, with His Excellency, may be considered by us as honorable and satisfactory to both nations.

4. That we thank His Excellency for his assurance that the Treaty, with the papers and correspondence relating thereto, will be laid before us, and that any measure to give effect to its provisions will receive our careful consideration.

5. That we learn with interest that the extension and development of our system of railways have not only rendered necessary additional safeguards for life and property, but have given greater frequency to questions in which the interests of rival companies are found to be in conflict, and to require authoritative adjustment; and that as further legislation appears to be needed for these purposes, any measure submitted to us for the consolidation and improvement of "The Railway Act" will be carefully considered by us.

6. That we thank His Excellency for informing us that experience has shown that amendments are required to make the provisions of the Act respecting Elections of Members of the House of Commons more effective and more convenient in their operation, and that we will carefully consider any measure submitted to us for the amendment of that Statute.

7. That we will willingly consider any measure laid before us for the amendment of the Act respecting Controverted Elections, with a view to the removal of certain questions of interpretation which have arisen and which should be set at rest.

8. That we are pleased to learn that His Excellency's Government has availed itself of the opportunity afforded by the recess to consider the numerous suggestions which have been made for improving the details of the Act respecting the Electoral Franchise, and that any measure submitted to us for the purpose of simplifying the law and greatly lessening the cost of its operation, will receive our earnest attention.

9. That His Excellency having been pleased to inform us that the growth of the North-West Territories renders expedient an improvement in the system of government and legislation affecting that portion of the Dominion, any Bill for that purpose laid before us will be earnestly considered.

10. That we will carefully consider any Bill submitted to us to make a larger portion of the modern laws of England applicable to the Province of Manitoba, and to the North-West Territories, in regard to matters which are within the control of the Parliament of Canada, but which have not, as yet, been made the subject of Canadian legislation.

11. That His Excellency may rest assured that all measures laid before us, especially Bills relating to the Judiciary, to the Civil Service Act, and to the audit of the Public Accounts, will receive our earnest attention.

12. That we thank His Excellency for informing us that the Accounts for the past year will be laid before us, and that we shall respectfully consider the Estimates for the ensuing year; and that our thanks are due to His Excellency for the information that they have been prepared with a due regard to economy and the requirements of the public service.

13. That His Excellency may rest assured that these important subjects, and all matters affecting the public interests which may be brought before us, will receive our best consideration, and that we thank His Excellency for the expression of his confidence in our readiness to address ourselves to them with earnestness and assiduity.

Mr. JONCAS. (Translation.) Mr. Speaker, on rising to second the proposition of my hon. and eloquent friend, the member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague), I cannot refrain from a certain feeling of apprehension which one naturally experiences on being called for the first time to take part in the debates of this House. Had I consulted only my incompetence to treat the important questions which will come up for deliberation during the present Session, I should assuredly have held myself aloof, but, aware that the spirit of indulgence animates all the members of this honorable House, I take heart at this knowledge and feel reassured by the kind welcome which you have just given me. I eagerly join my hon. friend from Haldimand (Mr. Montague) in his regret at the departure from among us of His Excellency the Governor General, and, in the name of the French Canadian population of the Dominion, I am certain that I echo their sentiments when I declare that this departure is viewed by them with sorrow. In summarising and discussing, with his usual eloquence and skill, the several paragraphs of the Speech from the Throne, the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague) has singularly lightened my task, and I have comparatively little to add to his remarks. It is the rule, Mr. Speaker, at the opening of a Session of this Parliament, in good years as in evil, in years of dearth as in the years of plenty, to hear those who are commissioned to propose the adoption of an Address in reply to the Speech of His Excellency, declare that peace and prosperity prevail

in our country, but there perhaps never was a time when such a declaration was better justified by facts than on this occasion. Our agriculture has not, in a long time, been more productive, our commerce more flourishing, and our industries more thrifty than they are at present. Thanks to the political system whose device is "Canada for Canadians," our manufacturers expand the range of their operations, employ a larger number of hands, enhance the case and contribute a more powerful argument in favor of the wisdom of that policy of protection which has created the wealth and strength of many other countries, and which assures the Canadian Confederation a brilliant future. There is further ground for congratulation, Mr. Speaker, in the intelligence that the sole cloud which darkened our political sky last year is on the eve of disappearing, if it has not already vanished out of sight. There is ground for trust, that the Imperial Parliament, the Congress of the United States, and the Parliament of Canada, will ratify the clauses of the treaty which has just been signed by the gentlemen charged with the duties of the Commission at Washington. The treaty which will be laid upon the Table of this House, probably to-day, for ratification, will furnish proof that the line of conduct, wise, prudent and energetic, followed by the Government, in pursuit of a satisfactory settlement of this knotty fisheries question, deserves the general approval of this House and of the country. The secrets of the future are unknown to me, but the action of the Government inspires me with confidence. I have reason to rest satisfied with the present condition of this question, and I have no doubt that they who assumed the burdensome mission of going to defend our cause at the Washington conference, made sure that, while sturdily guarding our naval interests, they screened us from conflicts detrimental to the general economy of our Confederation. I speak of the energetic defence of our naval interests, because, Mr. Speaker, whether viewed from the national standpoint, the standpoint of economy or the standpoint of business relations, the fisheries of Canada are of the highest importance. I do not hesitate to repeat before this House what I have already stated several times before, and do not apprehend that I shall be charged with exaggeration when I say that the Confederation of Canada is in possession of the richest and most extensive fishing fields of the whole world. As national domain, their value is priceless; as a ground of exploration thrown open to commerce and to the spirit of enterprise and industry, they are well nigh exhaustless, and further, furnish our people a plentiful and cheap food, easily accessible to all. If we examine the pages of history, Mr. Speaker, we find that, in all ages, the nations holding the sea coasts and the people dwelling by the sea, have understood the importance of their fisheries, and those who have worked them have become prosperous, and successful in war and traffic. We see that the most famous and prosperous nations are those who pursue navigation and the fisheries, and that the most prosperous are they who trace their origin from their fishermen. Tyre, Venice, Byzantium, and the Constantinople of to-day were celebrated among the cities of ancient times, and they owed their fame, their power, and their wealth, only to the fishermen who had pitched their tents either on the shores of the Adriatic Sea or on the Straits between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean. Who does not know the important part played by Holland, in Europe, during the sixteenth century? Who does recall the high deeds of renowned Dutch admirals in those days? And to whom is Holland indebted for this fame if not to her fishermen, who became great sailors, and to her fisheries which made her one of the richest nations on the globe? More recently we behold the English, the French, the Norwegians and the Spaniards take an active part in fisheries, with an ardor of rivalry, not