

will be brought before the House for the redistribution of seats consequent upon the census returns; for the establishment of the boundaries of the Territories; and the amalgamation of the Departments of Marine and Fisheries as a step towards economy and better administration. A Bill concerning real property in the Territories in accordance with the Torrens system, and Bills concerning the fisheries will also be submitted to us. With this programme from the Government, and the public and private Bills that will be presented, we shall have plenty with which to occupy our time during the session. In concluding my remarks, I must beg the pardon of my hon. colleagues for having gone into more details than I had intended at first, and thank them for their attention.

Mr. LAURIER. Mr Speaker, I very heartily tender my congratulations to the mover and the seconder of the Address for the manner in which they have performed the tasks which they have assumed. It gives me pleasure to say to the hon. member for East Hastings (Mr. Northrup), that the speech which he has delivered to the House this afternoon is, in my humble opinion, one of the most quiet in tone and rich in matter which it has been my pleasure to listen to in many years. He has uttered sentiments which we would all be glad to hear more frequently uttered on the floor of this House—not because we believe they are not generally felt, but because the more often such sentiments are repeated the greater effect they have in moulding our future destiny. At the same time, it shall not surprise the hon. gentleman, I am sure, if I tell him that much as I find to admire in his speech, I cannot agree in everything he has said; but the exceptions which I have to take to his remarks are very few, because in the main I am disposed to agree with what he has said. I was surprised, I must say, to hear him speak as he did of the prosperity of this country. I was not at all unprepared to see the statement in the Speech of His Excellency, we are accustomed to that; but, Sir, is it possible that a young Canadian could entertain the opinion which the hon. gentleman has just expressed, that he finds the state of the country one to be congratulated upon? Is it possible that the advisers of His Excellency, in putting the statement in his mouth that the country was prosperous, were really serious and sincere? May we not rather suppose that they were playing a game of bluff, imagining that they were bound to persist in that assertion? Is it possible that they can hold such an opinion in the face of the census returns? Why, Sir, the census has been a revelation in this House:—not a revelation, I should say, but a confirmation of the truths which have been uttered again and again on this side of the House, but which have been as often denied by the other side—dismissed with lofty contempt as the pessimistic utterances of mere fault-finders. After all, though it is not a matter of satisfaction to us, still it is a duty to re-assert that all the statements made on this side of the House have been verified, and more than verified, by the revelations of the census, in regard to the state of the country. In the last decade our population has grown just one bare half-million. We had expected that it would reach five millions or more, but it was found to be under five millions. We have not maintained

Mr. BAIN (Soulanges).

the natural increase of our population, nor have we kept the immigration which was brought into the country at great cost; and yet we are told, forsooth, that the country is prosperous. I want to know the evidences of prosperity. A happy, teeming population would be the best possible evidence of the prosperity of the country; but what is the use of talking of prosperity when one million of Canadians have deserted our shores to settle in another country which is not more favoured by nature than our own. If we had kept this million of Canadians, if we had kept the immigrants whom we have brought here, then there would have been some reason to talk of prosperity. Prosperity there may be; I would not doubt that there is prosperity for some privileged classes; but prosperity for the toiling masses—Sir, it is a mockery to speak of it in the face of such a state of things. Why, Sir, our population has increased at the rate of only 11 per cent. A young country like Canada, which is able to afford food, clothing and homes to at least one hundred millions of people, has not kept even the five millions which we had anticipated. If Canada were an old land, on the continent of Europe, then I could understand hon. gentlemen opposite claiming that it was prosperous so long as the people were not starving. But Canada is in America; Canada has the greatest possible future before it; Canada is bound to have some day or other, when it is properly governed and administered, a population of one hundred millions. At the present time we should at least have six or seven millions; but we have not five; and yet, forsooth, hon. gentlemen opposite talk of prosperity. Our neighbours to the south during the last decade have increased 25 per cent. They have kept not only their own population, but the population which has come to them from abroad. We have been told again and again, and I think the hon. member for East Hastings repeated the statement, that there has been a displacement of population in the United States. So there has been; but though there has been a displacement of population in that country, people moving from one state to another, the nation as a nation has suffered no loss whatever. Under such circumstances it seems to me that hon. gentlemen opposite, in purposely closing their eyes to the real state of the country, are not discharging the duty which the country has a right to expect from them. The true patriot does not, like the ostrich, bury his head in the sand and ignore the facts, but he looks the real situation of the country in the face. Anyone who does that must see that the present state of the country is not satisfactory, and that there must be reform. I claim, Sir, that on this occasion, as on other occasions, the only patriots are found on this side of the House. I say it with all candour, that if hon. gentlemen opposite were at all awake to the duty of the hour, they would not assert that the country is prosperous; but they would frankly admit that for a young country which is bound to have a great future, it is in a lamentable condition when it cannot retain its own population, and that it becomes the duty of all patriots to seek for some kind of reform. What is that reform to be? That is the question; and much as we differ on one side of the House or on the other, I am sure that we all agree in this, that the reform which Canada requires at this moment is a more extended market for its products. Canada is in the position to-day of