

giving to the commercial relations between the United States and Canada a more intimate nature and a more liberal basis. We in Canada have not forgotten the admirable results of the commercial policy, initiated by the treaty negotiated in 1854, under the auspices of Lord Elgin, of illustrious memory. This is why, notwithstanding the abrogation ultimately of the treaty by the Government at Washington, that of Canada believed that it served the true interests of the country by remaining faithful to this liberal policy. If, under the exceptional circumstances in which it found itself placed at the close of a terrible civil war, the American Government thought proper to raise, in a somewhat exorbitant proportion, the duties on its imports, on the entry into its ports of foreign products, the disastrous commercial and industrial prostration which has been the fatal consequence, by creating disorder in the fortunes of men, seems also to have deeply moved their minds, and seems likely to be followed by a powerful reaction on a large scale towards its marvellous prosperity. Whatever may happen, the negotiations which are in progress, when more cordial relations between the two countries are considered, will not fail to give an opportunity for the final settlement of the fisheries question, resulting from the Treaty of Washington. This year, again, His Excellency expresses to us his regret at not having to announce to us any advance towards the solution of this question. But the House knows already that these delays are not to be attributed to the Government of Canada, but attach rather to that of the United States. It is to be regretted, doubtless, that the great Republic should have shown, up to the present, so much indifference as to what affects the settlement of this important question. But let us abstain from all recrimination, when we are, perhaps, on the point of obtaining full satisfaction, thanks to the negotiations commenced, and which are so well calculated to cement the friendly relations which ought to exist between two neighbouring countries for the common happiness of their people. His Excellency is pleased to

conclude by expressing his confidence in the prudence of the House, in its devotion to the prosperity of the country and in the unity of the people. This House could not in a better way make an echo to the homage rendered to the country, in the persons of its representatives, than by declaring to His Excellency, that, under his happy auspices, and with the skilful assistance of those who have the honour to be his advisers, it would be difficult for this House not to coöperate in the prosperity of our young country, and in promoting the harmony of the various elements which are destined to make us a mighty people. Nothing further remains for me, Mr. Speaker, but to thank the House for its kind attention, and to second the motion of the hon. member for South Wellington.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD said it was not intended, so far as he knew, to move any amendment to the Address from that side of the House, provided a change which he would presently suggest was made by his hon. friend at the head of the Government in a clause which contained something, that, if adopted, might be deemed obligatory on the House as a matter of policy. He referred to the paragraph relative to the completion of the work on the St. Lawrence canals. The hon. member for South Wellington, whom he (Sir John A. Macdonald) was glad to see in this House, though he would prefer to see him on the Opposition side of it, had appealed to the House for the usual consideration which was given to young members. Of course, under any circumstances, he would have received that consideration; but there was really no occasion to bespeak the forbearance of the House. He congratulated the House, and especially the hon. gentleman's party, on such an accession to their number. His hon. friend had undertaken to show to this House, and through this House to the country, the great importance of the Speech which they had heard from the Throne, and in so doing had been well seconded by the practised eloquence of his hon. friend, the seconder of the Address. But great artists as the gentlemen had both shown themselves to be, they had not quite been able to conceal the