

in regard to those claims which would never have existed if the Washington Commission had fulfilled its original design and given an authoritative expression of opinion thereon. I have every confidence, however, that the present Government will use its best efforts to obtain justice for us, but the House will remember that the Government is subject to embarrassments and difficulties which it would not have experienced if affairs had turned out differently at the time the Washington Treaty was arranged. We can join very heartily in his Excellency's congratulation on the subject of the establishment of the Supreme Court for this Dominion. It is a Court representative of all parts of the Dominion—a Court composed of Judges of great authority, which by its *personnel*, by its representative character, will be able to give decisions which will meet with general acceptance throughout the country. It is also worthy of notice that it was intended to be, and is, a Court of final decision. It was felt by the Government, no doubt, at the time of the passage of the Bill, that the right of unlimited appeal was unjust to poor suitors as compared with wealthy ones in great cases, and that some means ought to be provided by which final decision might be obtained without leaving our own country. This was no doubt one of the objects intended by the establishment of the Supreme Court, and we have every reason to suppose, from its composition that its decisions will be willingly accepted as final by all who have occasion to come before it. It has been asserted that there was an intention in the establishment of this Court to take away one of the innate rights of British subjects—that of final appeal to the foot of the Throne. This, the House knows, is a right which no Act of ours can take away, and it is not attempted to take it away by this Bill. The Bill merely provides that those who choose to ask the judgment of the Supreme Court on their cases must accept that judgment as final. They have still, as before, the right to appeal to the Privy Council, or to the foot of the Throne, as it is called, instead of to our

Supreme Court; but those who appeal to that Court are asked to accept its decision. That was the understanding when the Bill was introduced, and I think the House and the country are in no different frame of mind concerning it this Session. The attempt to represent this clause of the Bill as an attack upon the close relations which exist between us and the Mother Country, I think the House will feel to be unpatriotic, and calculated to arouse ill feeling between us and the Mother Country, and not to realize the prospects alluded to in the early part of the Address. We have further to consider the application of our friends in Manitoba for better terms, and the action of the Government connected therewith. The circumstances of that Province have been from the beginning rather peculiar. To use a common phrase, they have never had "a fair start." Their increase in population has been great, the expenses of government have naturally increased along with it, and there seems to be no impropriety in their asking for some better terms than they formerly had. Their case is further strengthened by the fact that they have shown a disposition to economise in local expenditure and not to waste the subsidies they have received from us. There are several other Bills in the Address which I might refer to at greater length had I not already spoken so long. The Bill to regulate the responsibilities of Common Carriers; the Bill in regard to Life Assurance Companies; the Bill in regard to Criminal Statistics, and that in regard to the enfranchisement of Indians, are all subjects which the House must feel to be of very great importance. If I were even to speak on those subjects at considerable length I could probably give few details which would enlighten the House. I therefore pass them over with this brief reference. Perhaps in regard to some of these and other matters in the Address, the House may be favored with some remarks from the gentleman who is to second the Address, and who will probably make up for any omissions of mine. I will conclude by saying that I believe the bill of fare laid before us contains quite enough work for a busy session