

BILL INTRODUCED.

An Act relating to Railways. (Hon. Mr. Scott.)

The Senate then adjourned.

THE SENATE.

Ottawa, Monday, Feb. 17, 1902.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at three o'clock.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

THE ADDRESS.

MOTION.

The Order of the Day being called :

Consideration of the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General on the opening of the 2nd session of the 9th parliament.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE said (in French)—I wish, in the first place, to thank the hon. Secretary of State for the honour he has done me in asking me to move this Address. I feel certain that I am not able to fulfil the duty in a manner appropriate to the occasion, though sensible of the pleasure which it affords me to accept the honourable task.

The journey through Canada of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales recalls to my mind the visit of His Majesty, the King, Edward VII. Forty years have passed away since 1860—hardly a day in the life of a people—and what changes, what progress! At that period we had hardly commenced to open up the eastern provinces. Agriculture and forests constituted their principal wealth. Since then industries of all sorts have been established and have attained already a great state of development; the interior and exterior commerce have surpassed our hopes. The most important event which has occurred in Canada during the last twenty years is, without question, the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway. This great artery, the only one which binds, without interruption the Atlantic and the Pacific, was indispensable for the colonization, and for the development of the resources of the North-west Territories and of British Columbia, which are already enjoying a state of progress and expansion

which will make them ere long the most important parts of the Dominion. It was a great advantage to us that their Royal Highnesses were able to cross the continent and ascertain for themselves the important place which Canada occupies as an integral part of the British empire.

It is only too true that it will be necessary to promulgate severe laws against anarchy. We have to recognize once more that Presidents of Republics are no more free from the assassin than Kings and Emperors. However, if there was any man who seemed to deserve to escape the murderous assaults of the anarchists, it was surely McKinley, he who had no personal enemy and who had always been equally affable to the humblest as to the most powerful, to the poor as well as to the rich. But those who commit these atrocities do not reason. They do not see that in striking down a man who is nothing more or less than the representative of the institutions of the country, they do no harm to those institutions. The only reason which they give to explain their crime, is that they are anarchists. In America, as in Europe and all civilized countries, it has become necessary to strike at the root of anarchy by punishing severely those who spread their ideas, who excite to crime their fanatical associates who are generally blind instruments in the hands of able and unscrupulous agitators. While we have never had to record in Canada, any of these horrible outrages, nor attempts to agitate to produce them, we should take measures to prevent them from occurring.

The census of 1901 for the last decade shows an increase of 536,427 inhabitants. The share of the province of Quebec in that increase is 160,363, being nearly 30 per cent of the total increase in the Dominion. In 1891 the population of French origin in Canada was 1,404,974. In 1901, the population of the same origin had reached 1,660,918, being an increase of 255,944, or more than 47 per cent of the total increase. These figures are an additional proof of the expansive force of the French Canadian race. We shall soon have the relative statistics of the agricultural and industrial development which has occurred, and there is no doubt that the results will be still more important.