

has already shown us that in addition to the great sea pastures which we have, both in the Eastern Provinces and British Columbia, we will have one more very important field added in the north. A great deal has been said with reference to the treaties about to be made between the United States and Spain. While we would regret being excluded from any advantage we might gain by trading with the West India Islands on equal terms with our neighbors, yet we must not forget one fact, that we possess the great fisheries of this continent, and that the United States have not sufficient to supply their own consumption. From some figures I have, I find that, in 1884, the Americans exported \$4,742,000 while they imported \$5,579,000, showing that they actually have not enough for their own consumption, and that, should they make these treaties, they will have to look to us for their supply. In this connection I may be pardoned for referring to the Washington Treaty, and expressing a hope that, if, when the fishery clauses expire in June next, they cannot be renewed on as favorable terms as were obtained by our worthy chief, the Premier of this Dominion, at Washington, formerly, such measures will be taken as will guard and protect this our national heritage. I may be permitted to add one thing more. We have another industry in the Maritime Provinces which we trust may be protected at the same time. I refer to our great coal industries, and I cannot forbear expressing the hope that the United States may remove duties from the coal, thus enabling our great collieries to immensely increase their output. I hope for this, unless, indeed it would have the effect of raising the price of coal in Ontario by enabling the Pennsylvania coal owners to increase their price. I find that the total exports of animals and animal products for this year is some \$24,500,000, making an increase of over \$3,000,000 as compared with 1883, and that for the past six months the increase in this export is \$1,875,000, showing a much larger increase than in the previous year. While on that subject and referring to the immense importance of that industry to the people of this Dominion—becoming, as it must, greater year by year as the North-West is more settled and developed—I cannot help alluding to the vigorous and wise action of my predecessor in the representation of Cumberland, Sir Charles Tupper, who so ably represents this country in England, and whose wise management has done so much to assist and improve this trade. Taking into consideration the large ranches now existing in the North-West and the millions of dollars that have been invested in that industry, we can hardly estimate the immense importance it is going to be to this country. But, Sir, there is one thing that we may anticipate. Perhaps it may be received with an incredulous smile by some persons, but I believe the day is not far distant, when communication is effectually made between the North-West and the Eastern Provinces, when we shall have the cattle bred and fed on those ranches in the North-West brought to the shores of the Bay of Fundy and fattened on the marshes which surround its borders, thus enabling them to be transported to England with the least loss of flesh, which is the great difficulty that now exists in bringing the cattle from so great a distance. The lumbering industry, it is true, is to a certain extent depressed. That is a matter which is beyond the control of any fiscal policy. What the Government could do has been done by enabling the lumbermen to obtain their supplies at the very lowest rates. On examining the returns, however, it will be found that the volume of exports from the forests is actually greater during the past year than in the previous year, while we know the price has been less. This is convincing evidence of the fact that our hardy lumbermen are receiving employment, although those interested in buying from them may not receive such large returns. It is also a matter of congratulation to us that the latest reports show that the market is

rising. I find that the export of manufactures during the past fiscal year is greater than in the previous one, and during the past six months it has been proportionately larger than for the previous twelve months. This, Sir, shows that this important industry, the creation, we may almost say, of the National Policy, is not in such a depressed state as we were led to suppose. I can only refer, in support of this, to the remarks made by the Finance Minister recently in Toronto, as very satisfactory evidence on that point. He showed that the artisans have increased since the introduction of the protective policy 9,500 a year, while during the previous ten years the increase was only 6,500. Take that statement in connection with *Bradstreet's*, where we find that the decrease of artisans and mechanics in the United States was 130 for every 10,000, while in Canada it was only 65 in ten thousand during the same period. In the matter of immigration—although it is true that there is a falling off, owing, as His Excellency says, to various causes to which I need not now allude—we find that a much better class of substantial settlers is coming amongst us, and becoming permanent residents. I find the total number of immigrant settlers is, in round numbers, 100,000 for the past year. I think these few facts which I have been enabled to give to the House will verify the first statement in His Excellency's Speech, when he says that the "commercial prosperity, although it has to some extent shared in the depression which has prevailed in Great Britain and in the neighboring Republic, rests upon foundations which no temporary or partial disturbance can remove." Reference is made to the railways in the North-West. Now, Sir, we can all appreciate the immense value which the North-West is to this country. It is not for me to descant on that subject, but I do believe that, if the North-West is important to the Dominion, it is equally important that everything should be done by Parliament to help and develop that country. It is to be remembered that every extra cent of freight which the farmers have to pay for want of railway communication in that country handicaps them in the English market. The country can congratulate itself upon the near completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway, that great trunk line which we must regard as a national achievement of which every Canadian may be proud. I regard it as a work, not only of importance to Canada, but to England and to the Empire itself, and we may expect at no distant day that it will form the great highway from England to her Eastern possessions. While we are fully convinced that Parliament has done well to aid railways in the North-West, there are some railway matters in connection with the Maritime Provinces to which I beg leave to refer. Parliament gave large assistance to railway communication throughout the North-West, and at the same time some compensation to the Maritime Provinces was given by subsidising our railways. Respecting the construction of the road from the Intercolonial to Louisburg through the Island of Cape Breton, the House will learn with regret that the company have failed to carry out the object Parliament had in view. I am sorry to have to say that the people are suffering in consequence of the default of that company, but I trust I am fully justified in believing that ere the Session closes, such provision will have been made by the Government, either by negotiation or legislation, as will remove all cause of discontent and lead to the early completion of that road to the Port of Louisburg in Cape Breton. Now there are many other matters in the Speech, but I do not propose to allude to them at any length. The franchise, for instance, is of great importance to this country, and it is time that it should be dealt with. Having, as we now have, different franchises on which members are elected to this House, it is important those franchises should be made uniform, and any measure of that kind, I have no doubt, will have ample consideration. The revision of the Statutes, also, is a matter of great importance to the country. The subject of a bank-