

structed and that no unreasonable delay should be allowed to hinder the completion of this great national work, which will tend to stimulate trade, encourage settlement, promote the development of the North-West, unite the several Provinces of the Dominion more closely together, and advance the prosperity of the whole country. I do not know that it would be wise for me to enter into any particulars. As Cicero once remarked in his address on the Manilian law, I am embarrassed with the variety of argument that might be presented on this subject. I think it is sufficient to state the proposition substantially, in order to commend it not only to this House but also to the Canadian people. I wish to thank you, Mr. Speaker, and hon. gentlemen on both sides, for the kind indulgence extended to me while I have made these remarks. I suppose I would not be acting according to tradition if I did not apologize for the imperfection of my utterances, and I have neither reason nor desire to depart from tradition in this respect. I know that none more readily than hon. members who belong to my own profession will extend their sympathy to one who speaks without instructions on his brief, or the inspiration of a fee. I thank hon. gentlemen for the kind courtesy they have extended to me and I wish to thank the Prime Minister, and through him, the Government, for the compliment implied in asking me to move the Address in reply—a compliment I highly appreciate and which, on behalf of the constituency I have the honour to represent, I accepted. I have much pleasure in moving the following Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne:—

That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General, to thank His Excellency for his gracious Speech at the opening of the present Session, and further to assure His Excellency:—

That we receive with great pleasure His Excellency's kind assurance that in having recourse for the first time to our advice and assistance, in fulfilment of the important trust committed to him by Her Majesty, it is a source of the deepest personal satisfaction to him that he should have been called by Her Majesty to an office in which, as Her Representative, he is enabled to take a part in the public affairs of the Dominion, and to associate himself with us in the performance of the honourable duties which we are about to approach.

That we rejoice to know that although the last harvest has been less productive than its predecessors, and although there are indications that the rapid expansion of our commerce has to some extent been followed by over-trading, His Excellency feels that the general condition of the Dominion is such as to justify him in congratulating us upon its prosperity.

That the marked success attained by Canada at the International Fishery Exhibition in London is very gratifying to us, and has, we doubt not, been of great service in showing to the world the wealth of our fisheries and the extent of our marine industries and resources.

That we are glad to learn that the Commissioners appointed by His Excellency's predecessor for the purposes of consolidating the Statutes affecting the Dominion, have pursued their task with diligence; that His Excellency is enabled to lay before us for examination about sixty chapters of the proposed consolidation, and that the remainder of the work will be prepared and the whole of it revised during the present year, so that the final report will be ready at our next Session for our approval.

That it affords us much satisfaction to be informed that the number of immigrants to Canada during the past season has been greater than in any previous year; that we agree with His Excellency that this is a proof that the better Canada is known the more it is valued by those seeking a home in the new world; and that we trust the result of the arrangements which he informs us are in progress to diminish the cost of inland transport, will be a steady increase of valuable settlers in the future.

That we thank His Excellency for informing us that, during the recess, negotiations were resumed with British Columbia in regard to several matters upon which differences had for some time existed between the two Governments; that one of His Excellency's Ministers visited that Province last summer on a special mission, with a view to the adjustment of all questions in controversy, and that his efforts have happily been successful; that we trust that we shall be able to sanction the arrangements then made, and that by our so doing, all occasions of dispute will have been removed, and the most cordial relations established between the Dominion and Provincial Governments; and that any papers laid before us and any measures for enabling His Excellency to give effect to the agreement, will receive our earnest consideration.

Mr. MACMASTER.

That we feel that the rapid increase of population in the North-West may render some amendments in the North-West Territories Act expedient, and that our attention shall be willingly given to this important matter.

That we learn with pleasure that the progress of the Indians in Manitoba and the North-West during last year has been on the whole satisfactory, and that the Bands included in the several Indian Treaties have for the most part betaken themselves to their reserves; and that any Bill for the further promotion of their interests which may be submitted to us, as well as any measure applicable to the whole Dominion for the purpose of encouraging the more advanced Indian communities to assume the responsibilities of self-government, will be willingly considered.

That the Bill laid before us last Session for the representation of the people in Parliament and the assimilation of the electoral franchises existing in the several Provinces, which has now been before the country for a year, will, when re-introduced, receive the attention to which His Excellency commends it.

That we are fully aware of the expediency of providing for the regulation of factory labour and the protection of the workman and his family, and that we are glad to know that the measure submitted last Session, with some amendments, will be laid before us.

That we learn with great interest, that the rapid progress of the Canadian Pacific Railway has been maintained throughout the past year, that of the 2,833 miles of the main line between Pembroke and Port Moody, 1,738 miles are now constructed, rendering practicable the completion of that great work within the next two years, and that although the time within which the Railway Company is bound to finish the road will not expire until 1891, His Excellency's Government has thought it of the greatest importance for the settlement of the North-West and the development of our trade, that its completion from sea to sea should be hastened and the company enabled to open the line throughout by the spring of 1886.

That we thank His Excellency for informing us, that with this view, and in order to aid the Company in procuring sufficient capital for the purpose, by the disposal of its unsold shares, the Government agreed to receive a deposit of money and securities sufficient to pay a minimum three per cent. dividend for ten years on \$65,000,000 of the stock, that arrangement being made on the belief that it would give steadiness and increased value to the shares on the market, although a combination of unfavourable circumstances has prevented the fulfilment of these expectations, and the Company has not been able to obtain the required capital by a sale of its stock; and that we feel that the best means of preventing any delay in the great object of the early completion of the railway, demands our earnest consideration.

That we share the pleasure expressed by His Excellency in being able to state, that the operation of that portion of the railway already opened, affords the most gratifying evidence of its soundness as a commercial enterprise and of its great value to Canada.

That we think, with His Excellency, that the large increase of the volume of traffic on the Intercolonial railway over that of any previous year, without involving any burden upon the country, is a satisfactory proof of the continued development of trade between the eastern and western portions of the Dominion.

That we shall willingly consider the provisional arrangement made with the Government of Nova Scotia for the retention of the Pictou Branch and the acquisition of the Eastern Extension Railway to the Strait of Canso, which, His Excellency is pleased to say, will be submitted for our approval.

That we thank His Excellency, for informing us that the accounts for the past year will be laid before us. That we shall be glad to find that the expenditure has been considerably less and the receipts larger than the estimates, the surplus exceeding that of any previous year, and that the revenues of the first half of the current year, notwithstanding the large importations of last season, have been such that we may reasonably expect that the Estimates for the year will be fairly maintained.

That we shall respectfully consider the estimates for the ensuing year to be submitted to us, and which will, we trust, be found to have been prepared with due regard to economy.

That His Excellency may rest assured that we will devote ourselves with earnestness and assiduity to the consideration of the subjects he mentioned, and to all matters affecting the public interest that may be brought before us.

Mr. BELLEAU (Translation). Mr. Speaker, the task which devolves upon me of proposing for the consideration of the House the adoption of the Address, it seems to me is one which should have been, and which always ought to be, entrusted to some hon. member of this House, whose experience in past legislation would afford him every necessary qualification to treat in a proper manner, the subject matter now under consideration. It seems to me that in a new country like ours, where we have so recently laid the