

Reference is also made in the Address to the Exhibition, or World's fair, to be held in Holland during the current year. As those exhibitions are powerful means of advancing the interests of Canada, and disseminating a knowledge of this country and of its people and products, thereby serving the purpose of an extensive advertising agency, the subject is worthy of careful consideration, and is one which, I hope, will result in Canada being properly represented in a country containing a frugal and industrious population, a people amongst whom undoubtedly the best class of emigrants for this country will be found.

But the fact of which we all have greatest reason to be proud is that the affairs of this country have been conducted with such economy and efficiency that the Government are able to announce another surplus. I am aware that many people consider a surplus undesirable. I entertain a different opinion. It may be due to my ignorance of how Parliamentary men look upon these questions, but I know that in the ordinary affairs of life it is not considered an undesirable thing to have a surplus at one's command.

We have the announcement that the depression in trade in Canada is passing over. It is one of the most pleasing statements that could be made in the Address. When we look at the great depression which prevails in the countries with which we are most intimately associated, those with which our interests are so closely identified, England and the United States, one strongly protectionist, the other a free trade country, surely we may claim that the depression in Canada has not the most remote connection with our fiscal policy. It was with great pride and gratification I heard recently the announcement made by the gentlemen who control the destinies of this country, that they were well satisfied with the National Policy which lifted the clouds of depression from this land and shed a gloom of sunshine on its commercial condition, and first gave our people hope and encouragement. It was gratifying to learn that not only are they not dissatisfied with that policy, but that they are determined to stand by it, and that they expect it will continue to confer solid and abiding advantages on the people of this country. They refuse to be-

lieve that it has had any connection with the depression, which is happily passing away, but on the contrary they are satisfied that it has prevented much more extensive distress than might otherwise have been expected in the manufacturing interests. For these reasons they are determined to adhere to it, and I hope that nothing will cause them to swerve from their determination in this respect. The National Policy, no doubt, induced many persons to enter into manufacturing, with the natural result of over-production. For that we have no remedy but the operation of the law of the survival of the fittest. Those who are best able to maintain themselves and retain their positions will do so, and those who are not able must, of course, find other occupations, and thus the commercial interests of the Dominion will be strengthened and consolidated, and maintained in a prosperous condition.

There is also reference made in this Address to an Insolvency Bill. Of that I can have but a very imperfect knowledge. I have, however, a recollection of the great dissatisfaction which prevailed under the former system, and I remember how the grievance became so great that the Government had finally to repeal the Act and leave the different provinces to manage these matters for themselves. I am glad to learn that something will be done to ensure a fair distribution of bankrupt estates.

I think there is reason for congratulation on the peaceful and prosperous condition of Canada. In no country in the world has there been a steadier and more solid and enduring progress than there are evidences of in the Dominion. My observation is, of course, limited to the locality and neighborhood in which I live, but judging by that—and I am sure it is not the most prosperous portion of the country—no better evidence could be afforded of the happiness and contentment which prevail amongst all classes.

The confederation of the Provinces and the legislation of the past few years—because but 17 years have passed since the Union—have had the effect of inspiring a national sentiment and removing those animosities and acerbities which disturbed the quiet and peaceable relations of the people, and to-day they occupy the position of being the freest, the most tolerant, and,