

relief that I was the proposer of this motion. I felt that I would be able to cast upon his shoulders a great deal of the responsibility that, under some circumstances, I might be called upon to assume. Sir, on behalf of my constituency, I again thank the hon. Premier for the honor he has conferred upon them, through me, and I beg to move the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

Mr. PRIOR. In rising to second the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, I wish first to state that it was never intended that I should occupy this position to-day. Unfortunately my colleague was suddenly taken ill this morning, and I was called upon, at a moment's notice, to take his place; under those circumstances I hope that this honorable House will grant me the indulgence that they would have shown to my colleague if he had been in my place now. We are pleased to see that His Excellency the Governor-General, during the tour he has just taken through the Western Provinces, has been received everywhere with expressions of loyalty and good-will such as Canadians ever entertain towards any representative of Her Majesty the Queen who travels amongst them. In the far-off Province of British Columbia—where, I think I may state, without fear of contradiction, that the population is more cosmopolitan than in any other portion of the Dominion, where you can find every creed, race and nationality—I think His Excellency will acknowledge that the reception given him there was no less loyal than it was in the Eastern Provinces. Canadian sentiment, I am glad to say, is largely on the increase on the west side of the Rocky Mountains. Before the great national highway, that we are all so proud of, was completed, the people in British Columbia were, to all intents and purposes, cut off from relations with their Eastern brothers. The trade and commerce that we used to carry on was nearly all done with the mother country and with the United States of America. Our friendships were made with the people across the line, more than with the people of Eastern Canada. But now, Sir, I am glad to say that things are altering very rapidly, owing to the fact that it is much easier for us to have intercourse with the inhabitants of Eastern Canada, and we are now beginning to feel that we are Canadians indeed. I think one thing that tends to strengthen this feeling is the fact that every now and again we have visits from some of our public men from the Eastern Provinces. We are also glad to see that His Excellency, during that trip, noticed the great progress that has been made in the development of the natural resources of this country. No man of ordinary intelligence can travel backwards and forwards, as we members in that distant Province do, without seeing the rapid strides that every industry is making from year to year. Every man of course, knows, or ought to know, more about his own Province than he does of the rest of the Dominion; and I can say, Sir, that British Columbia, since the first day that a white man set his foot there, has never seen such an era of prosperity as she is enjoying to-day. Her fisheries are largely on the increase; her coal mines are turning out thousands and thousands of tons; her lumber mills are working full time day and night; and you cannot travel along the Canadian Pacific Railway twenty-four

hours without meeting large car loads of machinery going to the coast to be used in cutting up the giants of the forest in that Province. Take, for instance, the fisheries on the Pacific Coast. Fifteen years ago the whole coast catch was 3,000 cases; to-day, Sir, it is 400,000 cases. Take the output of coal on Vancouver Island: fifteen years ago it was less than 34,000 tons, this year it is 450,000. Nobody can help seeing that the country is going ahead when he reads these figures. Where there was one lumber mill in those days there are ten now. Many new manufactories have been started—capital coming in from Eastern Canada and the United States. I think I can safely say that every hon. member who lives in that Province, and knows it as I do, looks forward to the time, not very far distant, when the people of the Eastern Provinces will have to admit that the wealthiest Province in the whole Dominion is British Columbia. Now, Sir, there is another paragraph here that is of particular interest to myself, and that is the one in which His Excellency draws attention to the Behring Sea, and in which he mentions the fact that strong hopes are held that a speedy settlement will soon be arrived at. This subject has been before the House for the last three years, and I think it is needless for me to go into any details in regard to the why and the wherefore of this claim. I would, however, like to call the attention of the House to some of the utterances and opinions of a notable man in the United States, one who, we would suppose, would back up the United States in their claim, but who, as I will show, maintains that they have no claim whatever—I refer to Mr. J. B. Angell. This gentleman is one of the most noted authorities on international law in the United States, and he was, also, I believe, the American representative on the Washington Treaty Commission that was held a little while ago. In an article in the "Forum" Mr. Angell states, in the first place—

"That Great Britain is proceeding with much deliberation and freedom from excitement."

And he hopes that, in a short time, both England and other foreign countries will come to an understanding with the United States with regard to the protection of the seals. Now, Sir, we are all very glad to hear that England is proceeding with "deliberation and freedom from excitement," but I think the sealers themselves believe there has been too much deliberation. It is pretty hard for them to have to wait three years or more to get reparation for the losses and insults to which they have been subjected. The next thing to which Mr. Angell draws attention is the fact that it is England's interest, as well as that of the United States, to look after the seals and save them from extermination, because all seal-skins caught in the Behring Sea are sent to England to be dressed. Then the next thing he draws attention to is this:

"The question is whether, for this laudable purpose of preserving the fur-bearing seals from extinction and maintaining our undisputed right to control the taking of these animals on the Fribloff Islands, we may rightfully board, search and seize foreign vessels in Behring Sea more than three miles away from land."

In 1821, when Russia issued an edict claiming sovereignty over the sea for 100 miles from the land, Mr. James Quincy Adams, who was Secretary of State for the United States, protested most vehemently against such a claim being set up by