

was the similarity of our productions to their own. For the same reason we should not desire it, as it would result in bringing many more of the productions of the United States into competition with our own. Now, while their productions are similar to our own, many of them would come into competition with our farmers, under any form of free trade. We could not compete with Americans in raising pork or beef, for those articles, even now, in the face of what was considered a prohibitive duty, meet us in every section of the Dominion. Car loads of meat may be seen on every railroad en route from Chicago to the seaboard towns, at St. John, at Halifax, Sydney or Charlottetown, for our consumption. You will find American meats competing with our own in every Province. American flour, American corn, American pease and beans, American apples and fruits now crowd our markets, and it is with many thoughtful minds become a question whether free trade in any form would be a boon and a benefit to the Dominion. I need not refer your honours at any length to the destruction of our fisheries by purse seines. That question was well ventilated during the past session, when we passed a measure which prohibited their use in any waters over which we had jurisdiction, and it is evident that measures should be adopted to stop them from destroying our valuable fisheries outside the three-mile line, as well as within that boundary. If the mission to Washington will result in the adoption of any such regulations it will have accomplished a good work and much needed reform, which will preserve our fisheries from immediate destruction. The Civil Service Commission, which was organized by this Government, will, I have no doubt, result in perfecting a service which is already in many respects a good and efficient one. The Criminal Law is a subject which can be dealt with much more effectually by those of your honours who have had a legal training than by a civilian. That very important measure with which we dealt at considerable length last session has been carefully studied out in all its details by the legal profession, and when it becomes law, with such amendments as it may be found to require, it should be a perfect code, and I have no doubt it will be so. Another important subject brought to our attention by His Excellency is the re-distribution of seats, consequent upon the census return, as pro-

vided by our constitution. While we have to regret that our population has not increased as rapidly as we anticipated, and in consequence some sections may find that their representation in Parliament will be reduced, it seems that during the past decade there has been a tendency—an unfortunate tendency—among the rural population to desert the country for the towns. In Great Britain there is the same decline in this respect as is being felt in this country and in other older settled countries. The amalgamation of the department of Marine and Fisheries is a good measure, which brings both departments more directly under one chief head, and adds to the efficiency of the service. During the first session of this Parliament we lost the man who had occupied the foremost place in the Government of this country for a very long period, and the Opposition expected that after his demise the Liberal Conservative party would not long exist; but we find that they are gaining in strength and numbers as the time goes by. We have in this Chamber, in Mr. Abbott, the Premier, a leader we are proud to follow. We have in the other branch Sir John Thompson and the other Ministers. The policy of this party is unchanged. We still fight under the old banner, and hope to transmit it unscathed to another generation, who will witness the full fruition of that policy which Sir John inaugurated and our present leaders are now successfully carrying out with the increasing confidence of the people of this country. We have a country of untold possibilities, teeming with wealth in its lands, its forests, its mines, its minerals and its fisheries, with a free and enlightened system of government, and it only remains with ourselves to make it greater and more prosperous as time goes by. I second the motion made by the hon. member for Stadacona that the Address be adopted and presented to His Excellency the Governor General.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Before I proceed to make a few comments on the various paragraphs of the Speech from the Throne, I must congratulate the hon. member who has been so recently introduced to this Chamber—the Senator from Stadacona—on the very bright and eloquent address with which he has favoured this House. The hon. gentleman has had some experience of parliamentary life in another branch of Parliament, and I have no doubt that he will be an ac-