

these have been confined to a remote corner of our territory and to a very few of the people, and have been so deeply regretted by all classes of the community that they cannot be reckoned now as impairing the peace-loving character of Canadians. The people of this Dominion look, and wisely look, to their representatives in this House, and confide in their sense of justice, their love of fair play, their intelligence and their patriotism, to ensure that they will, as far as the constitution of our country permits, remove all sectional animosities; that they will allay all discontent, redress every grievance and right every wrong. After these fifty years our people number five millions, our revenues are buoyant and productive, showing for nine months of the current year a surplus of nearly a million and a quarter, and the end of the financial year promises to pay a very handsome compliment indeed to the careful management of the present Ministry. Our public works are magnificent and of essential utility; our agriculture, in its different branches of grain, stock and fruit, and our manufactures of every kind, aided and encouraged by a wise policy, are making rapid strides; interprovincial communication is easy, cheap and rapid; the intelligence, the thrift, the virtues and the enterprise of our people make our future sure. Fifty years hence he who stands in the same relation to the Parliament of that day as I do to this—the mover of the Address—will, I hope, be able to present a picture brighter than the one I have attempted to outline—the figures on the canvas larger, more clearly defined and suffused with a richer glow. He will, I hope, be able to speak of a people four times as numerous as now we are, of revenues productive and adequate, of vast improvements, of increased activity and remuneration in every art and labor of life. He may tell you of a Dominion not only prosperous as a whole, but every Province therein solvent and self-sustaining, and that “better terms,” from its long disease, has become an obsolete phrase; of a population patriotic, and, if not homogeneous, united, happy and contented; of Canada’s great works, her widened fame and merited glory. The display of Canadian products at the recent Colonial and Indian Exhibition in London, a display encouraged by the Government, contributed by the people and strenuously aided by our indefatigable and indomitable High Commissioner, must have a tendency to enlarge the knowledge and diffuse more correct ideas of our country and its capacities; it must drive from the common mind of Europeans that lingering dread that, after all, Canada is only a few square miles of snow. The excellence of our varied productions from the workshop, the field, the forest or the mine, will convince the intelligent observer who is looking for a wider and less crowded field for his labor and his energies, or for the investment of his small capital, that here, at least, under the British flag, is a country highly civilized and well developed, temperate in climate, productive in soil; that here there is wealth for honest labor, here a reward for toil, here a comfortable competency in age for youthful labor and a sober life. Let us hope that the many advantages which Canada possesses—and has shown so decisively that she possesses them—will attract to our country many thousands of the worthy and industrious poor from other lands. It is earnestly to be hoped that the negotiations on the fishery questions at present going on between Her Majesty’s Government and that of the United States—negotiations in which we are largely interested—may terminate in a peaceful solution of the present misunderstanding. It is the desire of every Canadian to be on amicable terms with the great Republic to the south of us, and for this reason we wish that the settlement may be in accordance with right and justice; for there can be no hearty goodwill between either individuals or nations when there is persistent aggressiveness on one side and a firm determination to resist on the other. Of this matter,

Mr. PORTER.

however, we shall be able to form a fuller and more correct judgment when the papers which are promised are carefully perused. The proposed changes and improvements in the different Departments of Justice, Customs and Inland Revenue, and the formation of a new Department of Trade and Commerce under a responsible Minister will, I have no doubt, be made in so careful and liberal a spirit that the effectiveness of each service will be much increased, and the country will derive much benefit therefrom. A very pleasing evidence of the growth and development of the North-West Territories is the presence in this House of hon. members from that portion of the Dominion—once designated the “Great Lone Land”—and the increasing importance of these great Provinces is still further attested by the proposed measure to give them representation in the Senate. Our fellow countrymen there will then feel that they are indeed citizens of this great Confederation, and that they, in concert with others, are shaping the destinies of a nation. Our intimate trade connections with our own far west will not be completed until the continuous navigation of our great inland waters is entirely in our own hands and free from foreign caprice. A trans-continental railway within our own borders will be most fittingly supplemented by uninterrupted navigation from the lower lakes to Port Arthur, at which these two great lines of Canadian trade and commerce will unite and pour their rich burdens of freight upon the country beyond. The prudence, skill and tenacity of purpose which gave to our country the Canadian Pacific Railway will find in the construction of the Sault Ste. Marie Canal a fitting, proper, congenial and most suitable complement to that great work. I have the honor to move the Address in reply to the Speech of His Excellency.

Mr. WELDON (Albert). In reading in the columns of *Hansard* the speeches which had been made by the movers and seconders of the several Addresses in reply to the Speech from the Throne, for the twenty Sessions of Parliament since the union of the Provinces, it is noteworthy that those speeches are characterised by a resolute and stubborn spirit of optimism, and that in years of leanness as in years of plenty the men who have delivered these speeches have taken a cheerful view of their country and of the capacity of its Government. Therefore the traditions of this House pledge one to that spirit of cheerfulness which the conditions of the country to-day so fully warrant. I heartily agree with the remarks of my hon. friend from West Huron (Mr. Porter) with regard to the paragraph of the Address congratulating Her Majesty on having reached the fiftieth anniversary of her accession to the Throne. We remember with some little humiliation that almost the very first thing that our young Queen knew of her Canadian Provinces was that they were rather troublesome and turbulent Provinces, which were causing her some anxiety; although we, who come from the Maritime Provinces, can recall with some complacency that her Provinces down by the sea were behaving themselves at that time in the most admirable manner. But counting ourselves now as one country after those fifty years have gone by, we are glad to tell her that we have a united Canadian people who have amply atoned for their turbulence of that time; that we are in the habit of giving something better than smooth words of loyalty—that we have done a heroic act in consolidating her Empire—that we have given to her, by a great sacrifice, a strong, secure military route, over which the Queen can send her soldiers from the British Islands to her possessions in the far East without ever touching a foreign land. In approaching the so-called fishery question between Her Majesty’s Government and that of the United States, we are pleased to learn that the resources of diplomacy for the settlement of that question have not yet been