

tween our great neighbors and this Dominion. I see a reference in the Speech to the Exhibition at Sydney last year, and to the coming Exhibition at Paris. I believe that the country, indirectly, benefitted very largely from these exhibitions, and, judging from personal observations of the one made by our people at the Centennial, Philadelphia, they need not be ashamed in any respect to compete with any other nation in the world. I am satisfied that the benefits derived from these exhibitions will amply repay the expense which has been incurred. I now come to the paragraph which refers to the disastrous fire in St. John—a fire which, comparatively speaking, was the most ruinous ever witnessed on this continent. The fire broke out at two o'clock in the afternoon, and by five o'clock there were two hundred acres of burning city, including the whole business part. Buildings as substantial as these Houses of Parliament in which we are now sitting, melted before the fire. There were burnt, I think, thirteen churches, and out of five banks four were destroyed. The City Hall, the Government Buildings, Post Office, Savings Bank, Custom House, and Receiver-General's Office, were all utterly destroyed; and from the best estimate that has been made, there were from twelve to fifteen thousand people left homeless and houseless. I have no doubt the grant which was sent by the Dominion Government will be unanimously voted by the House, and I feel thankful for the promptitude with which it was sent. There is a further reference in the Speech to the treaties made with the Indians in the North-West. There is no doubt that Canada has to a great extent—more than probably any other country,—succeeded in treating with the Indian tribes and races. They have treated them with a degree of justice, moderation, and good faith, which has commanded their respect. It appears that the same course of procedure which commands the respect of civilized nations, will also command the respect of uncivilized tribes. With regard to our distinguished visitor, Sitting Bull, I hope he will soon return to the United States pastures. Attention is called here to various measures, to which, until they are brought before the House,

*Hon. Mr. Lewin.*

it will be unnecessary to refer. But one is announced for the better securing of the Independence of Parliament—a most desirable measure, which the present law seems to take an extreme view of. It is a matter of congratulation, as His Excellency states at the beginning, that no special occasion has arisen for calling Parliament together. I very much regret to say that prosperity has not returned to this country. Divine Providence has blessed the West, and indeed the whole of our Dominion, with an abundant harvest, but there are many interests still suffering from depression, especially the great lumber trade, to which the mover of the address has referred, and he might also have added the shipping interest, which is also greatly depressed. Still, there is a small increase in the revenue of the past year over that of the preceding twelve months, and I earnestly trust it may indicate a return to more prosperous times. I beg to second the address.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL—I do not propose to offer any opposition to the passage of these resolutions. I desire to offer my congratulations to the House on the accession of the hon. gentleman who moved the address; and speaking for myself, I am particularly happy that the selection which has resulted in his appearance amongst us has fallen upon a French Canadian. I think it would have been much to be regretted if a French Canadian had not been chosen. In the part of the country where I live, it was rumored at one time, that another selection was intended. I think it would have been a source of regret if any diminution had taken place in this House in the numbers of French Canadians, who are even now too few. I agree in very much that has fallen from the mover and seconder of the Address. There are, of course, points on which we diverge, but I quite agree with very much that has been said by both hon. gentlemen. I particularly concur in what has been said with regard to the visit of His Excellency and the Countess of Dufferin to Manitoba. It was my good fortune to be in that part of the country at the time that their Excellencies' visit was paid, and it seemed to me there was a remarkable earnestness of feeling in the welcome which they received there. There are a great many