

Newfoundland, and it will be to our advantage to use every effort to bring the island into the union now. With Newfoundland a member of the confederation, we should have no more trouble with Bond-Blaine treaties. If we do not treat Newfoundland generously now, the island government will be quite justified in saying "what right have you to interfere with the treaties that we are endeavouring to make for the promotion of our own prosperity?" It will be of great advantage to our fishermen, and the farmers of the maritime provinces especially, to have Newfoundland added to the confederation. It will give us sea-coast fisheries of enormous value, and many other advantages to which I need not at present allude.

I agree with the hon. gentleman from Halifax in what he says in regard to the Insolvency Act. I was not very favourable to the measure last year. The province of New Brunswick has provided all that is necessary with the winding up of insolvent estates, and Nova Scotia will probably soon do the same. Even in mercantile communities there is a difference of opinion as to whether a bankruptcy law would be advantageous to Canada or not, and if the measure can be held over until after the next election it can then be dealt with by men coming fresh from the people. At the present time when depression exists everywhere about us and in Europe and the United States, it would be unwise to place such a law on our statute-books, apart altogether from the effect of bringing up such an important measure at a late season of the year, when it would inevitably involve a protracted debate and a long session. I know how diverse were the views of the members of this chamber on the subject of an Insolvent Act last session, and how close the votes were on some clauses of vital importance to the principle of the bill. On the whole, it is better to let the matter stand for another year. I listened with very great pleasure to the speeches of the mover and the seconder of the address. The speech of the hon. member from Pictou was characterized by fine diction and lofty sentiments, expressed in language which I, at least, could not attempt, and we have good reason to congratulate ourselves that we have in this chamber men who possess the ability and the grasp of the subjects of the day shown by these hon. gentlemen in their addresses. My hon. friend from Ottawa complained of the late period at which Par-

liament was summoned. It is undoubtedly a late meeting, but we know something of the difficulties which the premier had to encounter when he took office. I am sure he has not found the position a bed of roses. He has had to deal with questions of the greatest importance. He was called upon suddenly and unexpectedly to form a government when we lost our great leader, whose memory I always revere, whom I have always loved and known since he was a boy. I watched the career of the late Sir John Thompson from the time he entered public life up to the day of his death. He seemed to rise step by step, less by his own volition than by the force of public opinion. He was exceedingly modest and entirely free from arrogance. He discharged his duties with honesty of purpose and perfect sincerity. Those are the lessons which he has taught us. With all his ability he had the heart of a child. While he served his country faithfully and zealously, he did not forget to serve his God. His convictions were strong, and the sincerity of his character was shown in every act of his life. In forming his religious convictions he must have made great sacrifices, not only of his personal ambition, but also of pecuniary advantage. I knew him as a young man when he studied law, and I have followed his career in all its phases, and throughout all admired him to the end. When we met I am sure it was a pleasure both of to us to enjoy each other's conversation. Considering the great ability and experience of Sir John Thompson, his successor must have felt somewhat diffident in undertaking to form a government, and he could only have acted from a sense of duty. The present leader of the government, like his predecessor, has risen by his own ability, integrity, indomitable perseverance and sense of right and duty, and I felt satisfied when he assumed the responsibility of forming a cabinet that he would be a success, because his followers know him to be a man on whom they can rely, a man of irreproachable character who would never do anything for which they would have to apologize. When my hon. friend became the leader of the government, he had great difficulties to face. Necessarily it took some time to form the government and to realize the position in which they were placed. Then came the Manitoba school question, in dealing with which, while they took prompt and vigorous action, a good deal of