

fact that two of our moneyed institutions have closed under exceptional circumstances, attributable largely to mismanagement, affecting injuriously the shareholders principally, I think we may with confidence claim that the anxiety caused thereby has been local and is now allayed without disarranging the business of the country. Reports of a fair average business, with generally satisfactory payments, being the rule rather than the exception, encouraging us to hope for an increased term of prosperity.

The abundant harvest in Manitoba, the average yield of wheat equalling if not excelling the largest yield per acre of any country of which we have knowledge, is the strongest possible guarantee of its rapid settlement and of its becoming the great American granary at no distant day.

It is most gratifying to learn that the labors of the Fishery Commission have been brought to a satisfactory conclusion. The Imperial and the United States Governments have held such adverse views on the interpretation of the original Treaty of 1818 as to cause at times much irritation, giving rise to the gravest apprehensions. The terms of the treaty, signed by the Commissioners and to be submitted for ratification to the several Governments interested, are of such a nature that they must, when ratified, set forever at rest this much vexed question, enabling us to live in harmony and peace with the great nation to the south of us. This treaty may be ratified by the Governments concerned with honor. The concessions made on both sides are such as a spirit of fairness would dictate and with due regard to the promptings of a feeling of common humanity. While it is true that one or more representative party journals have attacked the treaty, and condemned the action of the British and Canadian Commissioners for having accepted it, this feeling is not general. I may say that a very excellent and influential Reform journal published in the city in which I live, with others, endorses the treaty, and when its provisions are fully understood by the people they will commend the wisdom, the ability, and the statesmanship of the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain and Sir Charles Tupper.

When the treaty and the correspondence accompanying the same are laid before this hon. body, the subject will, no doubt, receive at your hands the fullest consideration and your concurrence.

The rapid growth of the railway interests of the country, so necessary to its development, calls for the most careful legislation to insure increased protection to life and property. The measure proposed will make provision for the settlement of such difficulties as arise over level crossings by rival lines, and for the better protection of the crossing of the highways, &c. These measures will commend themselves to your favorable attention.

It is at all times most important that legislation should be based upon practical experience framed with a view of obtaining the greatest efficiency, and hon. gentlemen will be pleased to know that a measure will be brought before you to amend the Act respecting the election of the members of the House of Commons, making it more convenient and effective in its operations.

The Act respecting Controverted Elections is one which requires amendment from time to time in order to meet the ever-recurring difficulties with interpretation and operation and therefore I feel assured that the proposed amendment will receive at your hands the fullest consideration.

The Election Franchise will demand your attention. A measure will be brought down which will not only simplify but greatly lessen the cost of its operation. These are questions which more particularly relate to the other branch of Parliament and therefore I have not troubled hon. gentlemen with anything more than a passing reference and general concurrence.

The growth of the North-West Territories renders an improvement in the system of legislation necessary. The North-West Council, a portion of its members being appointed by the Crown and the balance by the people, was deemed at the time of establishing that Government sufficient for its sparse population, but with great growth and rapid development of the country, important changes are unquestionably necessary.