

and Fisheries, so that he might obtain personal knowledge of the salmon-canning industry, and judge for himself what rules and regulations are necessary to govern that important business. It has been said by the Opposition press that the Government is losing power in this country. I think that remark does not apply to the Province of British Columbia, for out of the six representatives returned by that Province to this honourable House, two were returned by acclamation, the opponents of three lost their deposits, and the sixth was opposed by a Conservative. I think that British Columbia did her duty, and she will be prepared to do it again when the occasion arises. I have much pleasure, Mr. Speaker, in seconding this motion.

Mr. LAURIER. The hon. gentlemen who moved and seconded the resolution, Mr. Speaker, now in your hands, might well have dispensed with claiming the indulgence of the House, because they certainly stood in no need of it. The hon. the mover of the resolution, though young in years, displayed all the art, and, I might perhaps add, all the aggressiveness of an old stager, and I have much pleasure in extending to him, as well as to the seconder of the Address, my very hearty congratulations on the manner in which they have both discharged the duties they undertook. The "manner," I say advisedly. The language, the delivery, the patriotic effusions with which their remarks were suffused, were all very enjoyable and thoroughly enjoyed by the House. I am sorry, however, that I cannot extend the same encomium on the matter of their speeches or the facts—rather what were given and accepted by the other side as facts—and the arguments drawn from those facts, or rather the long stretches of imagination which supplied the place of arguments and facts. I do not say this in any spirit of disparagement—far from it. It seems to me the hon. gentlemen deserve great credit for the manner in which they contrived to build upon such slender material: I appeal to the right hon. gentleman to admit, as I am sure—if he has not lost all sense of right—he must admit, that this verbose document, known as the Speech from the Throne upon the present occasion, is a very dry skeleton. The right hon. gentleman, on a former occasion, characterized the Speech from the Throne as shining in omissions. I think if there ever was a Speech which shone by omissions, it is the present one. It is literally bristling with omissions. I fail, for instance, to see in it any reference to the causes of the dissolution of the late Parliament. So far, we have never had any explanation from a responsible Minister, why Parliament was dissolved, and we naturally expected that, at least on the present occasion, this omission would be supplied, and some of the reasons given which were urged upon His Excellency as excuses for dissolving the late Parliament. I submit to the House, that this keeping the country in ignorance as to why Parliament was dissolved, is a breach of the constitutional law. I fail likewise to see any reference to the repeal of the Franchise Act, the uselessness of which has been thoroughly demonstrated, since it has been made clear that an election can take place without an annual revision. I fail likewise to see any reference to an amendment of the electoral law, which would prevent a recurrence of outrages such as

Mr. CORBOULD,

those which have disgraced the late election. I fail likewise to see any reference to the conveyance of mails from this country to Europe. For the last forty years until now, the mails have been carried from this colony to the mother land in Canadian bottoms. Two years ago the Minister of Finance told us that this system was antiquated, and that he was about to provide us with a better system—with a system as good as any then in existence—and the result of his efforts has been that the antiquated system has ceased but has not been replaced by any system at all. Would the House believe it, the hon. the Postmaster General is to-day sending the mails of this loyal country, this country bristling with sentiments of loyalty, to the mother land, through the United States *via* the port of New York. I denounce the Postmaster General as a traitor, whether veiled or unveiled I shall not say, for I am not sufficiently posted in the ethics of loyalty, as they are understood by the Conservative party to do so; but, according to my blunt judgment, and according to the views laid down by hon. gentlemen themselves, the Postmaster General is a traitor whom I denounce to the indignation of the loyal men and true who stand around him. By way of compensation, however, we are promised measures—for what? For the transfer of the jurisdiction formerly belonging to the Vice-Admiralty Court to some other court; for the codification of the Criminal laws; for legislation concerning the foreshores of the Dominion, the North-West Territories, the Exchequer Court and Trade Marks. Well, with the exception of the Bill relating to the North-West Territories, which is a very important measure indeed, all the other measures are very dry bones; and it would be almost useless for the right hon. gentleman, as it was useless for the hon. gentlemen who moved and seconded the Address, to clothe with flesh, sinews and veins such bones as these and to breathe into them the breath of life. But the hon. gentlemen early took the opportunity to depart from the four corners of the Speech, as was said by one of them, and to launch at once into the sea of Conservative exultation and Conservative laudation. When the debate was opened, I was prepared for much, but I did not expect that the hon. gentleman from St. John (Mr. Hazen) would have had the courage to boast of the continued confidence of the country in the present Administration as exhibited in the late election. The continued confidence of the country in the present Administration—where is it?

Mr. WELDON. Right here.

Mr. LAURIER. Certainly not in this House. When this House last met the Ministerial ranks were not only filled up on the opposite side but also on this, so as hardly to leave us a small corner. But where are now the serried ranks of the Ministerial party? Where are they? Battered, shattered, crushed, simply from their contact with the will, the mind, and the heart of the people. Why, it seemed to me, when I heard the pean of the hon. the mover of the Address in praise of the Conservative triumph, that he must have felt, as did King Pyrrhus, when congratulated on a victory by his troops over the legions of Rome, and could say with him: Another such victory and we are undone. Hon. gentlemen opposite may applaud any reference