

of the country at their face value—that they are subject to a discount. I would take this opportunity of expressing the hope that when the new Bank Act is brought up provision will be made for the payment of all bank notes at par in every part of the country.

In reference to the paragraphs relating to the North-West Territories, my hon. colleague from Calgary will dwell upon those matters. I think myself that it would be wiser for the North-West Territories to move slowly in the direction of provincial autonomy, that the co operation of the Dominion Government with the people who are located there in the administration of the affairs of that country is of great value and will be of great assistance in developing the resources that are so largely in their infancy at the present time. I see, also, that it is proposed to bring down a Bill to increase the efficiency of the North-West Mounted Police. I think it is worth considering whether the time has not arrived when the efficiency of the North-West Mounted Police would be best promoted by its gradual incorporation into the Militia system of the country. I may be pardoned for expressing such an opinion on account of being military man and having great faith in the organization to which I have been so many years attached. Undoubtedly the Mounted Police have done valuable service to the country in the past. When the Force was first instituted it combined the administration of the affairs of the country with the protection of the people. Now that the country is settled up, it is fair to consider whether the occasion will not soon arise to identify the Police Force somewhat with the Militia system of the country.

I feel pleased, as a settler from the North-West Territories, to be able to say that the progress that those Territories are making is eminently satisfactory, although we have had difficulties to contend with, especially during the last year. Owing to the drought of last summer many parts of the Province of Manitoba have been severely visited, and there has been a dearth of coarse grains and of hay which has affected the interests of a large number of the settlers; but notwithstanding the difficulties which some districts have experienced the past season, the general results, so far as exports of wheat are concerned, have been

fully maintained, as compared with the previous years. We have the satisfaction of knowing that there are so many varieties of agriculture in the North-West, such as breaking, back-setting, summer-fallowing, volunteer-crops, and others, that it is hard if a season comes that will entirely destroy our crop. That has been the case this year, and while some districts have been injuriously affected, the general results have been good.

I have to thank this honorable House for the patience they have shown in listening to my remarks, and hope that I shall have an opportunity to discuss the merits and advantages of our great western country and to point out the many benefits that will accrue to the Dominion of Canada from the speedy development of our prairie country and the success and prosperity of its settlers.

HON. MR. LOUGHEED—I am very much pleased to have the honor of being selected to second an Address containing reference to so many matters of public importance, measures which I am satisfied will receive the hearty support and approval of the country at large. I hope it will be considered pardonable on my part by this honorable House if I manifest a somewhat deeper interest, and touch rather more lengthily upon those questions in the Address referring to North-West matters than on those of a more general character affecting the country at large. Though questions of public policy are always of deep interest to the people of the North-West, yet those matters of vital importance which particularly affect that country very naturally receive a more absorbing attention than subjects of a general character. It is therefore with great pleasure I see a reference made by His Excellency to the importance of the extended trip made by him during the autumn season through the North-West Territories and British Columbia. The experience and knowledge gained by the observations of His Excellency on that occasion, I am satisfied, will prove of incalculable benefit to the settlement and development of the country, by the exercise of the great influence which His Excellency may use in the political and social world of Great Britain, in which His Excellency occupies so important and distinguished a position. The warm and