

speakers declared, both in this House and from the hustings, that this road would never pay the cost of the axle-grease it would use. During a certain time it cost the country a half a million of dollars to keep it in working order; but to day, Mr. Speaker, there has ceased to be a deficit, and the Intercolonial Railway is more than paying its running expenses. We could not wish anything better; as a matter of fact, the road does not cost the country anything to keep it in working order, whilst it renders a great service by the extent of its traffic through the fertile lands which it crosses. Its construction is certainly an honor to the Canadian Government. The following statement will show the increase of freight on the Intercolonial Railway:—

## AMOUNT OF FREIGHT CARRIED.

In 1878-79.....	510,861 tons.
“ 1880-81.....	725,577 “
Surplus.....	214,716 “

This is an increase of 42 per cent., which is equivalent to a surplus of 21,472 car loads transported during 1880-81 over the number transported in 1878-79. The monthly service between Canada and Brazil is another consequence of our National Policy. This, Mr. Speaker, must be gratifying to those who have elected members supporting this policy in the House, and it is unnecessary to ask electors their opinion on this point, as they have plainly signified it in almost all the isolated elections which have taken place since that policy had been in vogue; and we may even foresee and predict that if that policy is continued, Canada will in time have commercial relations with every country in the world. The Royal Commission appointed to enquire into the treatment of operatives in manufactories, and to discover the best means to insure comfort to the workingman and his family, has made its report, and I see that the Government will submit to the House certain measures which, while not interfering with manufacturing interests, will in a special manner protect young girls and children working in factories. This subject is not a new one, Mr. Speaker. I remember that the hon. member for Cornwall has already proposed such a measure. I feel certain that this measure will meet with the approval of the House, for manufacturing interests are not to be encouraged at the expense of the public health, or at that of young people. One should not compel children to work in factories for such long hours as to preclude their acquiring the instruction they will need hereafter. In the United States there is a law preventing children under fourteen years of age from working in factories. I do not know if the same provision will be adopted here, but at any rate I have no doubt that the Government has mastered the subject and that the measure which it is to bring down will meet the necessities of the case. The country will be pleased to learn that the era of deficits has passed, and that last year's revenue has considerably surpassed the expenditure last year by over \$4,000,000. With a portion of this sum the Minister of Finance has paid debentures which were due and on which we were paying six per cent. interest; and with the other part he has paid the cost of certain public works which would have had to have been paid out of the capital fund, or which is almost the same thing, the Government has not been obliged to borrow, as authorized to do so by Parliament. His Excellency hopes that these various subjects will be discussed with that degree of patriotism which he has the right to expect from this House. I am too young, Mr. Speaker, to speak of the past with a personal knowledge of the facts, but members of this House, who remember what this country was previous to Confederation, and who have since that time seen it advance with giant strides towards prosperity, must be proud to see the immense progress we have made. A distinguished man has said that we were a people

chosen by Providence, and truly we are not quite 5,000,000 of people, but we inhabit a country capable of receiving hundreds of millions. Our public works are of such magnitude as to astonish foreigners. We live in peace, we speak nearly all the languages in the world, we adore the same God in many different modes, and we are going onwards, feeling both proud and secure in our future. The National Policy, which has had the approval of three-fourths of the Canadian people at the General Election of 1878, which has been endorsed by an overwhelming majority of this House, as well as in nearly all the isolated elections which have taken place, has not only given work and bread to our workingmen, enabled our farmers to sell their produce, given energy to our internal and external commerce, but it will also have the effect of bringing back in our midst our compatriots who have left for a foreign land during the times of depression and crisis, to earn that daily bread which their country could not give them; a large number are in exile, but they love their country and always speak of it with love. They will return; for one day, the Almighty moved by our fears and satisfied with seeing us taking steps to secure that result, will know how to bring back sons to their mothers, and citizens to their country. Under the circumstances, Mr. Speaker, I have much pleasure in moving the following Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne:—

1. That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General, to thank His Excellency for his gracious Speech at the opening of the present Session, and further to assure His Excellency, —that we feel with His Excellency that the hope he expressed at the close of the last Session, that on the re-assembling of Parliament we should be able to congratulate ourselves on a season of peace and prosperity has been fully realized:

2. That Canada has been favored with a year of great prosperity:

3. That her farmers have enjoyed a plentiful harvest and remunerative prices:

4. That her manufacturing and other industries have been and continue to be developed under favorable auspices:

5. That her trade and commerce have been steadily increasing, and peace and order prevail within her borders:

6. And that for these various blessings we cannot be sufficiently thankful to the Giver of all good things.

7. That the Chief Magistrate of the United States having been cut off by the hand of an assassin, we feel that it is fitting that the sorrow of our people for a loss which was not that of our friends and neighbors alone, should be adverted to by His Excellency as another instance of the sympathy which unites in brotherhood the British Empire and the American Republic.

8. That we learn with great satisfaction that during the recess His Excellency had the pleasure of visiting the Province of Manitoba, and of traversing the extensive prairies of the North-West, and is able, from personal examination, sincerely to congratulate Canada on the possession of so magnificent and fertile a region, to be inhabited, we trust, in the course of years, by millions of thriving and contented subjects of Her Majesty.

9. That we recognize the fact that the immigrants have not confined themselves to Manitoba or its vicinity, but are scattered over the country westward to the base of the Rocky Mountains, and from the international boundary to the banks of the northern Saskatchewan; that we agree with His Excellency in thinking that the time has come for the division of the Territories into four or more Provisional Districts with an appropriate nomenclature, and that this subject, when submitted to us by His Excellency, will receive our attentive consideration.

10. That we are pleased to learn from His Excellency that during his journey he was met by numerous Indian tribes, all expressing confidence in the continuance of the traditional policy of kindness and justice which has hitherto governed the relations between the Government and the Aborigines, while we share His Excellency's regret that the necessity of supplementing the food supply of the Indians still exists and is likely to continue for some years.

11. That we are happy to know that every exertion has been made to settle the Indian Bands on Reserves, and to induce them to betake themselves to the raising of cattle and cultivating the soil, and that these efforts have met with a fair measure of success; but we are aware that we can only expect by a long continuance of patient firmness to induce these children of the Prairie and the Forest to abandon their nomadic habits, and become self-supporting, and ultimately add to the industrial wealth of the country, and that the influx of a white population has greatly increased the danger of collision between the settler and Red man; that we observe that His Excellency is of opinion that