

country. He hoped, also, the Government would keep in view a better exchange of our products with the neighbouring and other countries. The attention of the Legislature was invited to a well considered scheme of Militia organization and defence. He (Mr. Fisher) was not much of a military man himself; but military talk was the fashion now, and as the ladies say, "you might as well be out of the world as out of the fashion." Having assumed the position of a new nationality, we must be prepared to incur its responsibilities and discharge its duties. It was necessary to have a certain amount of military preparation, and he knew it would be the pride of the people of these countries to provide, to the extent of their ability, the means of defence. Measures were promised for the assimilation of the criminal law, and the laws relating to bankruptcy and insolvency. He thought it very desirable that, as soon as possible, all other laws should be assimilated. This would tend to strengthen the union of the colonies. He believed there was no more important duty devolving on this legislature than the introduction of a proper system of bankruptcy and insolvency, provision should be made that the honest debtor when he made a fair exhibition of his affairs, should not be driven from the country but should have it in his power to make a fresh start and obtain a livelihood for his wife and children. Reference was made to the construction of the Intercolonial Railway. If the best line was selected traversing a portion of New Brunswick which was making rapid progress, and had every facility for mills and manufactures, he believed it could be built for the amount of money guaranteed by the Imperial Government. He asked the House not to allow this question to become one entirely of politics, but to let the broad interests of the country and the necessities of commerce be considered. The subject of Western territorial extension was also one of great importance. From the head of Canada to the Rocky Mountains, there was a country to be colonized, full of the elements of wealth. To make use of the old patriarchal language, he would say "let us go up and possess the land." When at Detroit, about a year ago, an American friend said to him—"If you don't go up there pretty soon, we will squat you out." He hoped this question would be taken up in a large and liberal spirit. In the framing of a uniform election law, we would have the benefit of the recent discussions on the suffrage and franchise in the Parliament of England. He hoped that in any provisions that might be made relating to

[Mr. Fisher (York)]

the franchise, due regard would be had to the combined influence of intelligence and property. The estimates to be laid before the House would, no doubt, receive its attentive consideration. He might say that in New Brunswick, they thought the people in Canada were apt to be extravagant, and they had some fear on account of this, that the Union might not work well. He might confess he had been somewhat affected by that fear himself. At present, things were in a transition state. Parties by and by would be defined and would take sides as naturally as water ran down a slope; but at present we must work our system by what was called a Coalition; and he trusted that in carrying on that Government, due attention would be paid to economy. After adverting to the other points mentioned in the address, Mr. Fisher concluded by expressing the hope that in the working of this Union, peace and happiness, religion and piety, truth and virtue, would be established in these lands, and would continue to flourish through all generations. He resumed his seat amidst general applause.

Mr. Desaulnier, member for St. Maurice, Quebec, seconded the address. He said that for a French Canadian he congratulated the House on the adoption of Confederation, which gave his countrymen the best safeguard for their peculiar national interests. He remarked that the speech pointed to many subjects, probably too numerous for one session. He noticed the necessity of settling the currency question, and for relieving the country people from the silver nuisance. He asked postal reform in the direction of reducing letter postage and abolishing newspaper postage. He expressed the hope that the greatest economy would prevail in the Government and public works, especially in the matter of the Intercolonial Railroad.

It was then agreed that the Address should be moved paragraph by paragraph.

The first paragraph having been moved, explanations as to the resignation of seats in the Cabinet by Hon. Messrs. Archibald and Galt were given.

MINISTERIAL EXPLANATIONS

Sir John A. Macdonald briefly explained the circumstances connected with the resignation of the Secretary of State for the Provinces, and of the Minister of Finance. The former had resigned because of the adverse verdict of his constituents, and the latter for reasons of a private nature. The Government deeply regretted to lose their colleague, who,