

the confederation, but if my memory serves me aright, on two different occasions she got large concessions from the Dominion. When British Columbia came in she was promised all that which we are only now beginning to receive. We did not expect that the very letter of the contract would be adhered to, but we did expect that it would have been carried out in spirit, and I think it comes with a bad grace from the hon. member from Halifax to accuse British Columbia of being the "spoiled child" of the Dominion. I must also say with reference to the Province of Nova Scotia that I am pleased with the appointment of the hon. gentleman who is now presiding over this Chamber. I have no doubt, from my acquaintance with him during the last few years, that he will give all the satisfaction which could have been expected when he was appointed to the position he now holds.

HON. MR. HOWLAN—I think it is a matter for congratulation that we have in the Speaker's Chair a gentleman whose long parliamentary experience so well qualifies him for that responsible position; and we must not forget that in losing him from the debates of the House, we have gained to the floor, as a member of the Government, an hon. gentleman who, during the last few years, has devoted a great deal of time to the management of perhaps the most important department of the Government. Not only has he done so, but he has also interested himself in the financial affairs of the Dominion; and perhaps no member of this House has within himself so complete a knowledge on that subject as the hon. member who is now Minister of the Interior.

I did not intend to say anything upon the Address, as it is almost a departure from Parliamentary rules, but I see that for some years past it has been the custom in this House for hon. gentlemen to express their opinions upon questions coming before them referred to in the Address in answer to the speech from the Throne. Following in the footsteps of those who have preceded me, I propose to say a few words upon the Address now under consideration.

The first paragraph of the Address refers to our new Governor-General, and I must say that it is pleasant to note that

in the selection of a Governor for one of the most important dependencies of the Crown a gentleman has been chosen who has had some parliamentary experience in the mother country, and who has also been a member of the present Government in England. Following as he does in the footsteps of the two illustrious noblemen who have just left us, I have no doubt that his experience (as was theirs) will be employed for the benefit of Canada, and that before he leaves our shores he will be able to see the completion of that great work, the inauguration of which one of his predecessors witnessed, and 1000 miles of which the other saw constructed and in running order.

The second paragraph speaks of the prosperity of the country, and every well-wisher and lover of the Dominion will be pleased to note that, notwithstanding the short harvest of the last season, prosperity reigns within our borders. In looking back over the exports and imports of the Dominion, and at our revenue and expenditure, from the inauguration of Confederation, from 1867 to the present time, it will be apparent that we started off with great prosperity, that our revenues for a time exceeded our expenditure, and that we were able to prosecute important works, such as constructing public buildings, enlarging canals, building railways and other works which a young and rising country like this requires, as may be seen by the following table:

#### TRADE AND NAVIGATION.

The following is a statement showing the value of the goods exported from and imported into the Dominion each fiscal year since Confederation.

Year.	Exports.	Imports.
1868.....	\$ 57,567,888	\$ 73,459,644
1869.....	60,474,781	70,415,165
1870.....	73,573,400	74,814,339
1871.....	74,173,618	96,092,971
1872.....	82,639,663	111,430,627
1873.....	89,789,922	128,011,281
1874.....	89,351,928	128,213,582
1875.....	77,886,979	123,070,283
1876.....	80,969,435	93,210,346
1877.....	75,875,393	99,327,962
1878.....	79,323,667	93,081,787
1879.....	71,491,255	81,964,427
1880.....	87,911,458	86,499,747
1881.....	98,290,823	105,330,840
1882.....	102,137,203	119,419,500
1883.....	98,085,804	132,254,022

The value of the goods entered for consumption and the duty paid thereon were as follows: