

the same benefit from the school tax that they had enjoyed till then. The question has been before the courts of the Dominion and finally been carried before the Privy Council of England, where the question was decided in favour of the minority. The remedial order has been argued by counsel on either side before the Privy Council of Canada, and the remedial order has been sent to the Manitoba Government for necessary legislation in accordance with the decision of the Privy Council of England. Let us hope that the legislature of Manitoba will view the decision in a spirit of fair-play and that the question will be satisfactorily settled for all time to come.

The fathers of confederation had in view the possibility that the ancient colony of Newfoundland would at some time form part and parcel of the confederacy, but up to a recent date the people of that province had shown no disposition to be united to the Dominion of Canada. Latterly, however, the sentiments of the people seem to have changed, and they have sent delegates to discuss terms of admission into the union. Let us hope that such a union may be consummated, thereby completing the confederacy of the British possessions on this side of the Atlantic. Newfoundland being the key, as it were, of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, will be a valuable acquisition to the Dominion. The resources of the island are many and extensive, and a large interchange of commerce will undoubtedly take place when brought under the same tariff as the other provinces. Thanking hon. gentlemen for their indulgence, I will conclude my remarks by seconding the motion before the House.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—This House is always very considerate in listening to the utterances of hon. gentlemen who for the first time are called upon to address this chamber, recognizing that in doing so they experience some degree of embarrassment. I think we must all feel that both the mover and the seconder of the address in reply to the speech from the Throne have discharged their duty with very good taste and judgment. The hon. Senator from Pictou is not a new member of the legislature. This I believe is the third session that we have had the pleasure of listening to his voice. I remember on many occasions having listened with a great degree of pleasure to the hon. gentleman when he expressed his opinions

without the aid of notes in this chamber. I think I may offer, therefore, on behalf of the House, our congratulations to both gentlemen on the way in which they have discharged their duties. They are not responsible for any of the shortcomings of the address which His Excellency's advisers have seen fit to present to Parliament, and I think it must be apparent to all of us who have given any thought or consideration to the address that there is one very important subject that has been omitted, that is to say, it contains no apology to Parliament for the late date at which it has been summoned. It is part of the unwritten law of this country that the Parliament of Canada should be summoned not later than the beginning of February, following the precedent of the British Parliament. During the years when the Liberal administration was in power (excepting the year in which the election took place) Parliament was always called together by the beginning of February usually the first week or early in the second week, and that good example was kept up from 1878 downwards. I have here a memorandum of the dates at which Parliament was convened year by year, from which it will be apparent that that has been the recognized practice in our constitution. It is very well known and has often been alluded to in Parliament that it is necessary to summon the legislature at a period when it is convenient for public men to attend and when there would be the least interference with the business interests of the country. In 1879 Parliament met on the 13th February, in 1880 on the 12th February, in 1881 on the 9th December. In that year it was prorogued on the 21st March nearly a month earlier than we have been called together this year. In 1882 the House met on the 9th February; in 1883 on the 9th February; in 1884 on the 17th January; in 1885 on the 29th January; in 1886 on the 25th February. In 1887 instead of calling Parliament together the government—I will not say with the view of getting a snap shot at the electors—unexpectedly dissolved Parliament instead of calling it together. The House was called on the 13th April, but even in that year the date was earlier than during the present year. In 1888 it was the 23rd February, and in 1889 the 31st January. In 1891, when hon. gentlemen opposite suddenly dissolved Parliament, as was then publicly an-