

sion which has prevailed in Great Britain and in the neighboring Republic, rests upon foundations which no temporary or partial disturbance can remove; and that we trust with His Excellency that the present year will be one of peace and progress.

That we are glad to learn that the flow of population into Manitoba and the North-West Territories, although impeded by various and unexpected causes, has been substantial, and that the testimony of members of the British Association and other visitors of the North-West last summer as to the well-being, contentment, and hopefulness of the settlers, is most gratifying.

That any Bill introducing into these Territories a more simple and economical system for the transfer of land, laid before us, shall receive our best attention.

That we learn with pleasure that the report of the commission for the consolidation of the Statutes affecting the Dominion has been completed and will be submitted to us for legislative action.

That we shall carefully consider any measure relating to the representation of the people in Parliament and for the assimilation of the electoral franchises in the several provinces, which may be laid before us.

That we thank His Excellency for informing us that a provisional arrangement of matters for some time under discussion with the Government of Manitoba has been entered into, and that a measure confirming the same will be submitted us so soon as it has been accepted by the Provincial Legislature.

That we learn with great interest, that His Excellency deemed it expedient to issue during the recess a Commission to consider and report upon the whole subject of Chinese immigration with reference to its trade relations, as well as to those social and moral objections which have been taken to the influx of the Chinese people into Canada, and that the report of the Commissioners is very nearly completed and will be laid before us during the present Session.

That we thank His Excellency for informing us that the necessity of encouraging the speedy construction of lines of railway through the North-West Territories has pressed itself on his Government, and that we shall be asked to aid railway enterprise by liberal grants of land.

That we feel with His Excellency that the urgent representations which have been made by the Boards of Trade of the chief towns in Canada, as well as by some of the Chambers of Commerce in Great Britain, of the necessity that exists for the adoption of some system of Bankruptcy or insolvency giving adequate protection against undue preferences, demand the earnest attention to this important subject which His Excellency invites us to give to it.

That we learn with much satisfaction that in pursuance of the vote of last Session His Excellency caused a vessel to be fitted out and dispatched to Davis' Straits and Hudson's Bay, in order to obtain more accurate information as to the navigation of those waters, and test the practicability of the route for commercial purposes, and that a report of the progress of the expedition during the last season will be laid before us.

That we thank His Excellency for informing us that an International Exhibition will be opened at New York during the present year, and that a Colonial and Indian Exhibition is to be held in London in 1886; that we agree with His Excellency in thinking that Canada should be represented in her various manufactures and natural productions on both occasions, and that we shall attentively consider the best means of aiding in these important objects.

That any other measures of importance submitted to us, including among them Bills to amend the Insurance Act of 1877, the Civil Service Act, and the law relating to contagious diseases among cattle, as well as measures for taking at an early period a census of the population of the North-West Territories, and one relating to the North-West Mounted Police, will receive our attentive and earnest consideration.

That we thank His Excellency for informing us that the accounts for the past fiscal year will be laid before us; and that we shall be glad to find that notwithstanding the very considerable reduction in the prices and volume of many of the leading imports, the income has exceeded the expenditure chargeable to consolidated revenues.

That we shall respectfully consider the estimates for the ensuing year to be submitted to us, and which will be found, we trust, to have been prepared with due regard to economy.

That His Excellency may rest assured that our earnest consideration will be given to the subjects he has mentioned, as well as to every matter which may affect the prosperity and good government of Canada.

Mr. TOWNSHEND. In rising to second the motion for an Address in reply to His Excellency's Speech, I beg the indulgence of the House while I make a few remarks. There is nothing contained in the Speech from the Throne which is more deserving of the attention of the House and the country than the reference made to the recent visit of the British Association to this Dominion. The presence in Canada of a body of such eminent men would, under any circumstances, be an advantage to the country at large, but coming as they did and meeting here, and afterwards visiting every portion of the Dominion, seeking to inform themselves as to the resources of our country with the same eagerness as they have displayed in prosecuting scientific enquiries in other countries, their visit gave to Canada a double advantage. We find that far from confining themselves merely to the objects of their meeting as an association they traversed

this country from one end to the other acquainting themselves in the most thorough manner with its resources and capabilities; and having obtained that information they have carried it with them to England and to Europe generally, dispersing it in all directions in a manner most advantageous to this country, and in a mode by which, under no other circumstances, could the same advantages have been secured to this Dominion. The utterances of such men as visited this country with the British Association, such men as Sir Richard Temple, Professor Tanner, Professor Sheldon, Professor Gilbert, General Lefroy and others—for I have only mentioned a few of the most prominent—with the fact that they sought this information and gave it to the British public, cannot but be of immense advantage to us, because these men speak with authority. It is with no ordinary pleasure that I have had the opportunity of perusing some of the letters and speeches of those gentlemen since their return to the Mother Country, in which they have spoken in the most glowing terms of this great Dominion of ours, impressed as they were with our great agricultural and mineral resources—in fact, with all the great material resources of this country—to such an extent as thoroughly to surprise them; and I repeat that their views given to the public cannot but be of inestimable advantage to us. Indeed, I consider that nothing which has taken place in the history of Canada during the present century has been of more consequence to the people of this country than this visit, and it is an event which speaks well for the intelligence of Parliament and the Government in affording the association so much assistance in visiting the different parts of this country. There was nothing that struck me more forcibly—and I think it must have struck almost every one—than the contrast between the eloquent and truthful statements of these gentlemen—statements which were made and published by men unbiassed in the slightest degree—and some of the doleful utterances which have been spread broadcast through Canada itself. Sir, the contrast was so striking that it would be hard to pass over it without comment. These statements by members of the association came from men who are utterly without bias, and without any political ends in view. I think, Sir, that this country will ever remain under a debt of deep gratitude to these men who have spoken so well of us and have taken such pains, even at much cost and trouble to themselves, to find out what our resources really are, and what this Canada really contains. Now, Sir, the general condition of this country is spoken of in His Excellency's Speech. The revenue, we are told, will again give us a surplus. I rejoice, and the country must rejoice, that the days of surplusses are not yet gone by, and, Sir, this is the more gratifying when it is remembered that at the last Session of Parliament a considerable reduction was made in the taxation of the country. I refer principally to the tax on tobacco, which was reduced from 20 to 12 cents on the pound. This, with some other reductions, if I remember rightly, was estimated to cause a loss in the revenue of over a million dollars; and yet, Sir, we find, notwithstanding that, and in spite of the large expenditures made in the country, that the Government are able to meet Parliament with the announcement of a surplus. This is the first year that we have felt the effect of this great reduction in the taxation. We might also have expected a considerable diminution in the revenue from other causes. We know from the returns that the duties collected on spirits have been very much reduced, which I attribute to the greatly diminished quantity of spirits consumed throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion, owing to the general temperance sentiment which is happily now prevailing. I hope, Sir, it may long continue so. Now, Sir, while on the subject of revenue, I may be permitted to refer to what must be a cause of congratulation to this country—the loan effected in England last summer by the Finance