

expressing the deep sense of our gratitude to Divine Providence for the many blessings which Canada has received during the past year, and particularly for the exceptionally bountiful harvest in Manitoba and the North-west Territories.

2. We receive with much pleasure His Excellency's expression of gratification at the cordial reception tendered by all classes of the people, to the Prince and Princess of Wales, on the occasion of their visit in September and October last, the only regrettable feature being the limited time at their disposal, which prevented their visiting many important centres of population; and we are happy to know that their Royal Highnesses enjoyed their tour through Canada and carried away the most pleasant recollections of their visit to this part of the Empire.

3. We have shared the feeling of sympathy and sorrow which the assassination of President McKinley has elicited throughout the civilized world, and we are glad to be informed that, though Canada has happily so far been free from crimes of this character, the close proximity to the United States may make it advisable to join our efforts to the efforts of the United States and other nations and to provide by legislation for the adequate punishment of those who, either by speech or writing, incite fanatics to the perpetration of such horrible crimes.

4. We are pleased to learn that the returns of the late census will be laid before us and that, while the absolute increase in the number of population is not so great as might have been expected, the evidence of growth in wealth and in the general tokens of prosperous development are highly satisfactory; and also that there is good reason to believe that the increase of population during the latter half of the decade has been very greatly in excess of the average of former years and that in the near future we may look for a much more rapid growth than occurred during the period covered by the last two censuses.

5. We learn with great satisfaction that, application having been made by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company for approval of an increase of its capital, to meet the demand for additional rolling stock and other improved facilities, for handling the growing traffic, His Excellency's Ministers availed themselves of the opportunity to stipulate that the long pending question of the power of the Governor in Council to regulate the tolls of the company should be submitted to the courts for a judicial decision, and we thank His Excellency for informing us that the correspondence and other papers will be laid before us.

6. We are pleased to be informed by His Excellency that the inventor, Mr. Marconi, having met unexpected obstacles to the carrying on of his experiments in wireless ocean telegraphy in a sister colony, His Excellency's Ministers deemed it expedient to invite him to continue his operations on the coast of Nova Scotia, and availed themselves of his presence in Canada to enter into negotiations resulting in an arrangement through which, should the project prove as successful as is hoped for, the government and people of Canada will enjoy the benefits of the invention on very favourable terms, including rates for transatlantic messages very much below those now existing.

7. We are gratified to know that the display made by Canada of her products, at the several

expositions at which they have been exhibited during the last year, has attracted much attention, and has already resulted in many inquiries and orders for our goods.

8. We receive with much pleasure His Excellency's congratulations on the satisfactory condition of the revenue and on the steady and continuous expansion of the general business of the country as evidenced by the increased volume of exports and imports.

9. We learn with much interest that, with the view of still further facilitating and developing our trade with other countries, it will probably be found expedient to increase the number of our commercial agencies, and we assure His Excellency that we will willingly consider the desirability of making additional provision for that purpose.

10. We thank His Excellency for informing us that the governments of Australia and New Zealand have accepted an invitation from His Excellency's government to attend a conference in London next June for the consideration of trade, transportation, cable and other matters of intercolonial concern, and we unite with His Excellency in the hope that the meeting may lead to an extension of Canadian trade with those important portions of His Majesty's Dominions.

11. Our thanks are due to His Excellency for the information that his government, having caused inquiry to be made, has reached the conclusion that the establishment of direct steamship service with South Africa would enable Canada to secure in that country a profitable market for her varied products, and that, to that end, His Excellency's government will endeavour to arrange for such a service.

12. We are gratified to learn that His Majesty has been graciously pleased to invite the Premier to be present at the ceremonies attending his Coronation, and we share the hope that the presence of the leading statesmen of the several colonies upon this occasion will afford an opportunity for the discussion of subjects of mutual interest which may considerably affect the development of our trade and commerce in the near future, with the mother country and with our sister colonies.

13. We thank His Excellency for informing us that the public accounts for the last year and the estimates for the succeeding year will be laid before us without delay.

14. His Excellency may rest assured that the above matters and all others which may be submitted to us will receive our earnest consideration, and we thank His Excellency for the expression of his reliance upon our wisdom and prudence to deal with them in the manner which, under Divine Providence, may prove most conducive to the best interests of Canada.

Mr. HENRI BELAND (Beauce). (Translation.) I am sensible of the great honour that has been conferred upon me, in that I have been chosen to second the motion moved in such happy terms by the hon. member for West York (Mr. Arch. Campbell). But at the same time I cannot help the thought that if it was my good fortune to have been selected to address this House under such circumstances, and to discharge so honourable a task, it was perhaps also my bad luck to be called upon to do so after one of the most eloquent members

Mr. CAMPBELL.