

other countries during many months past, and that while the commercial depression prevailing abroad could not but affect the activity of business in the Dominion, we have been free from any extensive financial disaster or widespread distress.

We are glad to be informed that the revenues of the year have been ample for the services which we provided for, and have met the expectations on which the appropriations of last year were based.

We rejoice that the peaceful conclusion, by the award of the arbitrators at Paris, of the controversy which had prevailed so long, with respect to the seal fisheries in the Pacific Ocean and the rights of British subjects in the Behring Sea, has removed the only source of contention which existed between Great Britain and the United States with regard to Canada. We are also pleased to be informed that there is every reason to believe that Her Majesty's Government will obtain redress for those Canadian subjects of Her Majesty who were deprived of their property and liberty without just cause while the controversy was in progress.

We thank Your Excellency for informing us that at an early date a measure will be laid before us having for its object a revision of the duties of customs with a view to meet the changes which time has effected in business operations of all kinds throughout the Dominion; and that while Your Excellency's ministers do not propose to change the principles on which the existing enactments on this subject are based, the amendments which will be offered for our consideration are designed to simplify the operation of the tariff and to lessen, so far as can be done, consistently with those principles and with the requirements of the treasury, the imposts which are now in force.

We also thank Your Excellency for the information that there will also be laid before us a measure on the subject of bankruptcy and insolvency to make more adequate provision than now exists on that subject for the increasing trade and commerce of the country and for the greatly expanded trade between the several provinces of Canada.

Your Excellency having been pleased to inform us that measures will also be submitted to us making more effective provisions for our lines of steam communication on the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, for improving the law with regard to Dominion lands and with regard to the management of Indian affairs, also a Bill respecting joint stock companies, another with respect to the fisheries, and several less important measure which experience has suggested with regard to various matters under our control, we respectfully assure Your Excellency that all these measures shall receive our most attentive consideration.

We respectfully concur in Your Excellency's opinion that of the public measures which will demand our attention some will be of great weight and importance, and we sincerely share Your Excellency's earnest hope and prayer that the care and zeal which we shall apply to the deliberations of the session may be aided by the abundant blessing of the Almighty.

I fully appreciate the honour conferred on me by the extension to me on this occasion of that courtesy by which the duty I am about to discharge is usually assigned to a new member. I am sure that

in the performance of this duty I will receive, on the ground of my inexperience, the generous consideration of hon. gentlemen. It is true that I have had some experience in another place, yet the greater magnitude of the questions requiring consideration here, the contact on this floor with gentlemen (such as I see around me) of great training and experience in public life, together with my entire unfamiliarity with the rules and usages of this honourable body render my task one of considerable difficulty. The sound of a new voice on this floor reminds hon. gentlemen of the removal of one of their number, a landmark in the political history of Prince Edward Island. The Hon. Donald Montgomery was probably the oldest legislator in the Dominion. He entered the House of Assembly of Prince Edward Island in 1838, and continued a member of either branch of the Legislature until 1873, when he was called to a seat in this honourable House. Although Mr. Montgomery was not a prominent debater yet his strength of character was amply proved by the duration and continuity of his legislative career, while his sterling honesty and charming personality endeared him to the people of his native province, as I am sure they did to the members of this honourable House. Amongst the many changes which have occurred since the prorogation of Parliament, the departure of the late Governor General and the arrival of his successor, are the most important. It is not too much to say that in relinquishing the Government of Canada, and returning to a political career in Great Britain, the Earl of Derby carries with him the highest esteem and best wishes of the people of Canada from the Atlantic to the Pacific. During his administration of the Government he fully maintained the high standard which had been set up by his illustrious predecessors, and has left a noble record for ability, impartiality and devotion to the interests of the people over whom he was called to preside. Not soon will the people of Canada forget the earnest efforts of Lord Derby and his amiable consort to promote the moral, educational and material interests of our Dominion. In the appointment of Lord Aberdeen to the office of Governor General, Her Gracious Majesty has given another proof of her great regard for the interests of Canada. All the appointments of Governor Generals since Confederation have been made from the front rank of British statesmen. The influence of these