

that our railway system is destined to play an important part in the development of this country. Already we feel the advantage of having such a system, and we realize the importance of its extension. That is the true policy of this country; it is a policy which more than anything else is calculated to promote the prosperity, and develop the resources of the Dominion. I suppose there is no country in the world which has, in proportion to its population, constructed so many miles of railway as Canada has of late years. The Government have virtually assumed control of the railways, and they not only have the control, but they reap the benefit by the increased revenue derived from the development of the trade of the country. Such being the case, they should extend their policy and aid railway companies, so as to ensure the building of new lines wherever they may be found necessary for the development of the country. By doing so they would relieve the Provinces from the obligations they have incurred of late years for this purpose, and would thereby render demands upon the Dominion for better terms less pressing. It would be continuing the grand national policy inaugurated ten years ago. I should say that nothing appears in the Speech from the Throne which warrants me in making such a suggestion. It is my own opinion merely, and I give it for what it is worth, believing it to be a sound policy for the Dominion.

His Excellency announces that there will be a modification of the Election Laws and the Controverted Elections Act. We all know the importance of these laws, if Parliament is to be fairly representative of the people. There is no doubt that the existing laws need amendment: experience in the working of them demonstrates their weak points and indicates the need of improvement. For example, a good deal of difficulty is experienced with the section which leads to the opinion that an election cannot be contested after six months. That is a difficulty which should be promptly overcome. The Controverted Elections Act is one with which we in this House have little to do; the Senate is not elective, but we can see the defects in the working of the

law, and we must recognize the fact that it is often disastrous to innocent men. After the election last February many protests were entered, but comparatively few of them were brought to trial. A good deal of money was expended in these cases, most of which went into the pockets of the lawyers. The expenses incidental to such cases are exceedingly heavy, and often prove ruinous to innocent persons. I think it is the duty of Parliament to remove such objections which interfere with properly qualified persons coming forward to serve their country.

We are promised a measure to improve the government of the North-West Territories. This House will agree with me that in those territories and the province of Manitoba the future hopes of the Dominion lie, and if it is possible to provide legislation which will help those sections of the country it is our duty to do so. Manitoba has made extraordinary progress, and we have good reason to hope that the great country which lies beyond it will be settled and developed with equal rapidity. When we reflect upon the vast strides which the Dominion has made in prosperity and development during the 20 years that have elapsed since the Confederation of the Provinces, we may well look forward with hope and confidence to what the future will bring forth. We have seen Canada advance steadily on the path of progress until to-day the Dominion is a country of which the world speaks with respect and whose future greatness is universally conceded. Canadians have reason to be proud of their country. Thanking you sincerely for your patience and attention to my remarks I beg to move that this Resolution be adopted.

HON. MR. SANFORD—I am honored with the privilege of seconding the address which has been so ably presented by the hon. Senator from De la Durantaye (Mr. Ross) and I much regret my inability to discharge the duty thus devolving upon me in a manner that its importance demands.

The assurance of the general prosperity of the country is a cause for congratulation. Notwithstanding the