

make that country what we all desire to see it—the home of millions, and of a happy and prosperous people. We are also congratulated by His Excellency upon the fact that steady progress has been made with the construction of this work; and yet, although we are told that 264 miles of this railway are now in operation, we have scarcely entered upon the threshold of this gigantic undertaking, and the number of miles already in operation forms scarcely a tithe of it. We are glad to know that progress is also being made in the construction of other portions of this great work, and that soon, by the opening of a new line of railway extending from Lake Superior to Winnipeg (410 miles), with the additional two or three hundred miles being constructed into the interior, probably one-third or nearly one-half of this great undertaking will then have been completed. His Excellency also informs us:—

“You will be glad to learn that the measures adopted to promote economy in the working of the Intercolonial and Prince Edward Island Railways have resulted in a large reduction of the difference between revenue and expenditure; and that the steadily increasing traffic warrants the expectation that during the current year these railways will be self-sustaining.”

This, I am sure, is a matter for congratulation to every hon. gentleman, the fact that the revenue and expenditure are coming so nearly together, that the time is not very far distant when these railways will be self-sustaining. I remember when making some observations upon the construction of the Intercolonial Railway, a number of years ago, when Confederation was being discussed—its construction was made a part and parcel of the British North America Act—that any hon. member who ventured to assert that that road would ever be used for commercial purposes, in any sense whatever, would be regarded as little less than a madman. There were hon. gentlemen who opposed the construction of that road at that time who showed very forcibly, and, in their own opinion, very conclusively, that it would be utterly impossible to carry a barrel of flour on it to the Maritime Provinces—that the cost of doing so would make it impossible. The

*Hon. Mr. Gibbs.*

system which has been adopted, though it has not been directly remunerative, in one sense, has answered all the purposes for which its friends contended when, in 1867 and 1868, they were voting money and making appropriations for its construction. It is, therefore, a matter of congratulation to every hon. member to know, that by reducing the expenditure and increasing the revenue, we are led to hope that the railway will be shortly self sustaining. Then, His Excellency informs us that we are to have for training school purposes *H.M.S. Charybdis*. I trust all the benefits expected from the possession of that vessel will be more than realized. We are also informed that there is a possibility of the Civil Service being re-organized, a Royal Commission having been formed to report upon the subject. I trust that something may result from the report of this Commission which it is desirable should be accomplished in so important a matter as that of Civil Service reform. We are informed that the Province of Manitoba is to be enlarged, and His Excellency concludes by informing us that we shall have legislation upon certain important subjects which I shall not here enumerate, as every hon. gentleman has them before him, and it is unnecessary that I should take up time in adverting to them. I will conclude my observations by simply stating that whatever legislation may be brought before this Parliament for its consideration will receive the attention which its importance demands, and I trust and believe that whatever legislation may take place on the part of Canada will be such, in the future (as in the main it has been in the past) as will tend to the social, moral and material well-being of those for whom Parliament has been called to legislate. With these observations, I have much pleasure in moving the following resolution:—

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor-General, to offer the respectful thanks of this House to His Excellency for the gracious Speech which His Excellency has been pleased to make to both Houses of Parliament, namely:—

“To His Excellency the Right Honorable Sir John Douglas Sutherland Campbell (commonly called the Marquis of Lorne, Knight of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the