

the first route surveyed. It has taken all this time to get it through, and yet some of our people grumble now if they do not get a road completed in two or three years. The Intercolonial took 40 years before it was built. It is gratifying to know that we have communication from Halifax to the Western part of Canada. His Excellency notices that the British mails are now received and despatched from Halifax, which must be exceedingly gratifying to all hon. members. I can only say for myself, I despatched my letters by this route the very first time after the Government had taken steps to open it for postal service, and I confess when I did so I felt a sort of patriotic thrill of pleasure that we had at last obtained a port of our own for the receipt and despatch of our mails at all seasons without being dependent upon foreigners for such a convenience. Hon. gentlemen must feel satisfied that the Government did all in their power to bring the products and manufactures of Canada into a prominent position before the nations of the world at the Philadelphia Exposition. From all we can learn, the efforts made in that direction were eminently successful. I notice also that it is the intention of the Government to make arrangements to show the products of Canada at the exhibition about to be held at Sydney, New South Wales, and I am sure every hon. gentleman will feel satisfied and gratified to think that the Government are doing all in their power to promote the manufacturing interests of the country in a legitimate way in bringing the products of Canada before the different nations and parts of the world where suitable markets are likely to be obtained for them. The next paragraph is one of very great importance. It refers to the loss of revenue sustained by the diminished imports into the country, or in other words, by the economy that has been practised by the people under the continued stringency that has lasted for two or three years. That loss of revenue, we are informed, has been counterbalanced to a certain extent—nearly the whole extent—by reductions in the public expenditure, which I think a very legitimate way of meeting a loss of revenue. His Excellency suggests that great economy will be needful to bring about that equilibrium between income and expenditure which is so necessary. Some administrations might have been disposed to meet the loss of revenue by increased taxes and imposts upon the country, but this, I am glad to see, the present Government have wisely abstained from doing. They have taken the more enlightened policy of reducing their expenditure. The

next clause relates to the fishery claims under the Washington Treaty. I hope, at an early period, those claims will be recognized and settled, and the money coming to us paid over by our neighbors. I am glad, and I am sure every hon. gentleman present is glad, that the policy which Canada has pursued towards the Indians has been eminently successful. It is recommended that a Joint Stock Company's Act be passed. There have been various applications made to this Parliament and the Local Legislatures for acts granting special privileges to joint stock companies of many kinds and descriptions. I can see no reason why there should not be one general act under which such companies can organize and carry on their business. For example, look at the loan companies and other corporations that lend and borrow money. There was legislation by this Parliament within the last year of a very similar nature that has given satisfaction to the companies organized under it. I don't see why those individuals that come here to ask for special privileges do not organize under that general law. Those who have given it any attention admit it is a measure liberal in every respect and calculated to enable societies to be fairly successful, but from some bills I have seen of this nature it appeared to me the object was not so much to loan money and deal in matters of that kind as to obtain the greatest possible powers to borrow the largest possible amount of money on the smallest possible security. I think the greatest care ought to be exercised in granting any such powers. There is one matter which, perhaps, the Government should take in hand. This very matter is also legislated upon by the Local Legislature, and I think it would be well to define and settle which legislature should look after those societies. The bill passed here about a year ago, was re-enacted afterwards in the Ontario Legislature. There is an allusion in the speech to life insurance companies. I think anything the Government can do to secure the policyholders, by rendering their security more ample and safe than it has been in the past, will be looked upon with approbation by the hon. members of this House, and by the country generally. Hon. gentlemen will, no doubt, be very glad to hear that the geological survey is to be placed on a better and more permanent footing than it has hitherto occupied. There are also other measures promised, to which hon. members will, no doubt, give their best consideration. With these remarks, I will conclude by moving that an humble address be engrossed, and presented