

North-west, which will then become the great wheat-producing country of the world. Now, the next point referred to in the Speech is :

Measures have been taken to carry into effect the agreements arrived at with the United States, on the subjects of the boundary of Alaska, the boundary line in Passamaquoddy Bay, and the prevention of destructive methods of fishing, and the preservation and increase of fish life.

As was suggested last year by the hon. gentleman who moved the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, the Government should be given credit for having tackled this question in its infancy, before important interests had gathered around it and made it more difficult to settle, and that we should be pleased and should express our gratification that an agreement of this kind has been arrived at. We are also told that the conference with Newfoundland has been satisfactory, and I hope that, as good sometimes comes out of evil, the differences that arose out of the Bond Treaty and the disputes in reference to the admission of bait that took place between Newfoundland and this Dominion may be the means of bringing about the confederation of that colony with this Dominion. We shall then all over British North America have Edmund Burke's great dream of empire carried out, of provinces separated by the material bounds and barriers of nature united by the bond of a social and moral community. We are also told in the matter of the canal tolls that a disagreement has arisen between the United States authorities and the Government of this country. By the Treaty of Washington, the treaty of 1871, there was no mention made by England that the American tonnage should be free of tolls in our canals. England simply said that she would endeavour to obtain Canada's consent to that at some future time, but neither Canada nor the mother country was bound to anything of the kind by the treaty. But the Americans, in 1885, took away from us the bonded privileges that had been given, and that long before the concessions which were enjoyed by them on our canals were taken away. We say: "Let them restore to us those privileges which they first took from us before they ask us to restore to them privileges which we afterwards took away from them." We have no desire to quarrel with that great country to the south of us; we are sprung from the same stock, and I desire to express the wish that "Love between us, like the rose, may flourish, and peace should still her wheaten garland wear." The measures prefigured by the Government appear to be of considerable importance. In the first place, there is an improvement to be made to the Franchise Act in the direction of cheapening its cost, and I may express the hope, as the trend of public opinion is in that direction, as the general tendency is in that direction, that the day is not far distant when we shall have residential manhood suffrage in this country. I express my individual view

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in this, but I think that, as the men of this country over twenty-one years of age are called upon to provide the means to keep up the institutions of the country in time of peace, and, as in time of war, should any enemy appear on our borders or internecine strife arise amongst us, they would have to take their lives in their hands to defend them, they should have some voice in saying how the institutions of the country should be regulated and how their government should be carried on. Among the other measures mentioned is the admission of evidence in criminal cases. I desire to call attention to the broad principle of allowing persons criminally accused to give evidence in their own behalf. I think that is an important principle, and one that will meet with the approval of this House. It may be said that it has not obtained in the mother country; but the mother country is prone to humanitarianism in her criminal law, and the question with us should be not only the safety of the individual who is accused but also the safety of the country, the common weal, and the ends of justice, as well as the individual safety of the individual require that he should be permitted to give evidence. In the United States of America that principle has been adopted in a great number of states. In Maine, California, Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts and New Jersey a person indicted may, if such person desires it, testify in his own behalf. In Illinois, Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Jersey, if accused does not offer himself as a witness, no presumption against him is to be deduced. In Massachusetts the husband and wife cannot testify as to private conversation with each other. In Massachusetts and New Jersey husband or wife is a competent but not compellable witness against the other. In Illinois husband and wife are not competent witnesses for or against one another. In Connecticut the constitution of 1874 gives accused person the right to be heard by himself and his counsel, but by statute he is not to be compelled to give evidence against himself. Now, one of the last paragraphs in the Speech from the Throne asks that our deliberations may keep in view, above all other considerations, the welfare and stability of the country; and that brings me to what I conceive to be the point of prime importance suggested by this occasion that we shall have sojourned here in vain, that we shall have been taught by wisdom, guided by example, schooled by experience, to no purpose; we shall have grasped the shadow and missed the substance; we shall have been captivated by the form and shall have ignored the principle, unless we shall have learned to dedicate our highest thought and our noblest effort to the benefit of our common country. I believe—and let him who will call it the vague phantasm of a dream—that on this northern half of North America lies the material for the building of a great nation. The prime elements of success in