

spects to my senior and wiser colleagues. Before entering into the consideration of the Speech from the Throne, you will allow me to congratulate our Canadian people upon the worthy representative of the Queen, our Governor-General, who rules so wisely the destinies of our country, and represents so well by his justice, great learning, and great ability, the British Crown and British institutions.

It is a pleasure to me, both as a French Canadian and as a member of this honorable House, to remember the great and universal sympathies that Lord Dufferin has aroused on his passage through villages, towns and cities throughout our vast Dominion. He has inspired our hearts with loyalty to the British Crown, deep attachment to British institutions, and rendered dear and sacred our allegiance to Her Majesty.

I may say in the name of all nationalities of this country, that a deep sorrow will be felt on the day that His Excellency will be called from the shores of the St. Lawrence to place under another sky his eminent qualities at the disposal of the British Crown.

The same regrets will apply as strongly to Lady Dufferin, whose grace, affability, and distinguished mind have adorned our Canadian society.

His Excellency has been pleased to notice the award of the Halifax Commission, which closed the several difficulties intended to be settled by the Treaty of Washington. By the maritime portions of the Dominion the award is looked upon as inadequate for compensating the injuries resulting from American competition on the fishing grounds. Taking, however, higher views of the question, the people of this Dominion generally hailed with satisfaction this temporary settlement of a very vexed question, and they cherish the hope of removing for ever, from our relations with our neighbors, a great cause of irritation. If some regret might be expressed in regard to the framing of the Fisheries clauses of the Treaty, we have every reason to be proud of our representatives in the Halifax Commission, both our Commissioner and our Counsel. The ability, discretion, and high-mindedness displayed in the prosecution of our interests will, every one hopes, be recognized by the country and the Government in a handsome manner, in a

way commensurate with the importance of the services rendered.

I hope, I may say I do not doubt, that the United States will accept and act upon the award, and, following the noble example of Great Britain after the Geneva arbitration, will pay promptly and without dispute. It behoves a great nation like the American people, to accept loyally the arbitration and maintain high and untarnished the national honor.

I am sure this Honorable House must feel satisfied, as truly as I do, at the highly gratifying success that has crowned the course pursued by the Government of Canada, in undertaking to bring our products and manufactures into a prominent position before our sister Australian Colony of New South Wales. The exhibition was intercolonial, but almost assumed an international character; and I may say that Canada occupied a foremost position in her exhibit of products and manufacturing industries, which attracted the surprise and admiration of the Australian Commissioners.

The manufacturers of Canada have shown a great deal of enterprise in seeking in Australia a market for their goods, and their manufacturing ability has most favorably impressed the Victorian commissioners, and I am glad to hear that they have received already fair orders in consequence of the fine display made by them.

We French Canadians of Lower Canada, still living in the land settled by France, cannot be indifferent to the action of the Government in taking rank with other nations at the next great international exhibition at Paris. There we shall show to the world that under the British flag we have both kept the traditions of our ancestors, and followed the path of progress taught to us by that spirit of enterprise and great energy which distinguish so highly the English people. Canada will, at Paris, at Philadelphia and Sidney, have good right to be proud of the progress accomplished in all and everything that may concern and help the prosperity, glory and strength of a nation.

The Government will be congratulated for the measures they intend to pass in order to promote the settlement of the North-West territories, which are destined to be the granaries of British North America, and to offer a home, in the fu-