

cussion of this question to the Government who controls the destinies of the country for the time being, and that the commissioners who may be appointed to negotiate the treaty which is proposed will be better able to negotiate for the interests of the Dominion than if they were handicapped by too much discussion of the question in the present Parliament.

As a proof of the sincerity of the Dominion of Canada, and of the desire and anxiety of the Government to form a satisfactory treaty with the United States, it is proposed to settle all the other questions that are now in dispute between the two countries—that is, the trouble with reference to the Behring Sea question, our fishing industries, the coasting trade, and all other important questions that are now agitating the two countries; and in proof of the sincerity of the present Government they are proposing to us to re-enact the *modus vivendi*, the provisions of which do not provide by any means a fair compensation for the privileges granted to the United States, but is a proof that we are desirous of entering into a fair negotiation with our neighbours. I take it that the people of the United States are not desirous of taking any undue advantage of the people of the Dominion. I take it that they are as willing that we should have fair play in the negotiations as we are. When the two countries meet each other on these conditions I think there is no doubt that a reasonable treaty can be framed between them.

It is quite satisfactory to be told by His Excellency the Governor General that our cattle trade is not likely to be seriously interfered with by the proposed legislation of Great Britain, as suggested some time ago. That shows, to my mind, as I think it must show to hon. gentlemen, that in matters of trade and commerce theory may be all very well, but it is absolutely necessary that the man who has a practical knowledge of the business in hand should be consulted on matters of this kind. Gentlemen engaged in the export of cattle must, for their own advantage and for their own benefit, see that there is sufficient care taken of the cattle going across the Atlantic; and they have no doubt done so, and have satisfied those interested in this matter that such is being done by the exporters of cattle in the Dominion. I will not say much with reference to the

legislation to come before Parliament on the present occasion; I have not had sufficient time to look into these matters to express an opinion on them, but I am sure that hon. gentlemen of this Senate will take every measure suggested by the Government, or by individual members, into serious consideration, and pass such laws as they believe to be in the best interests of the Dominion of Canada. I may say, in connection with this question, I am proud of the judiciary of the Dominion of Canada. We have a court and judges who are above suspicion. We never hear a breath of suspicion with reference to bribery or corruption in connection with the courts of our country, and I hope it will long remain so. In this large and extended country, inhabited by a sparse population, I have never yet heard, within my recollection, of an attempt at lynch law that is so prevalent in some other countries. Our judges, our courts and our laws command the confidence of the people; they are satisfied to be judged according to those laws and by our judiciary, and I trust that the past history of Canada in this respect will be continued in the future. It is satisfactory to us to be told that the revenue for the past year has been sufficient, and more than sufficient, to cover the expenditure. It indicates a certain amount of prosperity throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion. Although it is not competent for this House to have much to do with the finances of the country, it must be gratifying to all of us to know that this is the fact. In closing, I think we can all join in the prayer of His Excellency in the last paragraph of his Speech, when he says:—

I pray that in the consideration of these matters, and in the performance of all the labours which will devolve on you, your deliberations may be Divinely aided, and that your wisdom and patriotism may enlarge the prosperity of the Dominion, and promote in every way the well-being of its people.

It would be well for us to consider the importance of the position that we occupy in the councils of our country, and to remember that we are called upon here to decide to a very large extent upon the measures on which depends the future prosperity of Canada. On the decision of those who represent the people here will largely depend the success of the country, and it becomes us at all times to seek