

But there is this fact to be taken in conjunction with the one I have just mentioned. When we glance at the statistics, we find that 85 per cent. of our present population are native born, and it is a matter for congratulation, as an evidence of our self-reliance, that our great public works and general development are due, in a large measure, solely to our own native energy. At the present time the prospects, as regards immigration, are much more hopeful. Hon. gentlemen on both sides must admit that the evidence today shows, that very shortly, we shall have an immensely increased immigration. It is not for me to discuss now the reasons why we have not received what we consider would have been our proper share of the immigration to this continent; but I may mention one reason, the force of which hon. gentlemen opposite will appreciate. We know very well that the agents of American land companies, and railway companies, have been very energetic in the distribution of libels on the climate of our North-West, and to a considerable extent succeeded in inducing the people of other countries to put faith in the statements they so industriously circulated; but I am confident hon. gentlemen will agree with me that the events of the past year must have dissipated those false ideas and impressions. In all quarters sympathy has been expressed, and tears have been shed, because of the death and destruction that have followed in the wake of the blizzards which, during the past year, visited those very sections of the United States to which the tide of immigration was directed. But whilst death and destruction have followed in the wake of the blizzards in the American North-West, the people in our North-West have escaped these calamities; they have lived in comfort and safety, enjoying the result of their toil, and their thousands of cattle have been grazing in safety upon our plains. One of the important matters referred to in the Speech is the Fishery question, a question of great interest to the Canadian people. Our fishing industry is undoubtedly a very great industry, one in whose operations no less a sum than \$7,000,000 is invested and 60,000 of our population employed, and which yields an annual harvest to the Dominion reaching in the aggregate a score of a million dollars. An industry of this importance is one which commends itself to our protection on all occasions, and I think the action of the Government throughout the whole dispute with the United States, in defending what we regarded as our just rights, meets with the approval of our people, irrespective of party, from one end of the country to the other. The position of our Government in this whole matter was a difficult one. They were compelled by their duty, as the representatives of the Canadian people, to defend our rights; it was their duty as well to see that, if possible, no rupture of the cordial relations which hitherto existed between the two countries should be occasioned. The dispute was an irritating one, one which at no time increased those friendly relations, and at all times was liable to lead to rupture of the same. Last year we were pleased to learn that negotiations, with the view of settling the difficulty, had begun, and I am sure hon. gentlemen on both sides will express their pleasure at the successful termination of these negotiations. This is not just the time to discuss the details of the treaty agreed upon by the Commission. When the Bill for its ratification is brought before the House, I understand it will be accompanied by the correspondence and various papers bearing upon it, so that every facility will be given for a thorough discussion of its clauses and a thorough understanding of its provisions. I believe the treaty to be a fair and equitable settlement of a serious dispute between us and the United States. True, we may not have got all we wanted or demanded, but we could not expect to obtain everything. As I understand the functions of a Commission of that kind, it is organised for the purpose of arranging equivalents. We have had, it is true, very serious attacks on the treaty, but it is not the first treaty which has been attacked in this

Mr. MONTAGUE.

country. In 1871, the right hon. gentleman who leads this House, was most severely attacked with regard to the treaty which resulted from the negotiations in which he, as a British plenipotentiary, took part. A few years later on, hon. gentlemen will remember, he was also vilified for not having taken a humiliating position in order to secure the extension of that same treaty, for having accepted which he had been previously so violently attacked. In connection with the Fishery Treaty, it is, perhaps, satisfactory to know that the American Administration are also being attacked by the American fishermen for having completely given up the American contentions; the Gloucester fishermen are, to-day, holding indignation meetings and denouncing their Government for having, as they claim, completely surrendered the American rights, by endorsing this same treaty which our Government are condemned on this side for having endorsed. A treaty which is thus condemned on both sides, by a certain section of each people, we may conclude is a fair and equitable settlement of a most serious dispute, one that places in a fair position of rest the Treaty of 1818, concerning the interpretation of which so much difficulty has arisen. At the same time, we must express our belief and hope that, following in the wake of the treaty, we will have enlarged commercial relations with our neighbors. It is true that, in the search for a natural market, we do not find a natural market for all our products in the country further south; but, at the same time, we find there a natural market for a limited number of those products which it would be conducive to the best interests of the people of this country to cultivate. I trust, therefore, we will be successful in arranging for an extension of trade in this respect with our American friends. His Excellency has referred to the prosperity of the country. That, I think, is a matter upon which the Dominion, to-day, can be fairly congratulated. There are evidences of our prosperity in our own country, and there are evidences of that prosperity abroad. In visiting the various classes of our people, we must become convinced that we are enjoying a very widespread prosperity. If we visit our capitalists and our monetary institutions, we find that, with slight exceptions, they have enjoyed a prosperous year; if we visit our business men we find their credit unusually good and our manufacturers increasing their already extensive operations. We also find our artisans and laborers employed at rates of wages very much in advance of what was paid a few years ago. There is one fact to which I cannot help pointing, and that is the absence during this winter of the cries of want and misery we have so often heard during other winters from our cities. At the same time, we must regret that from abroad, from the cities of other countries, appeals for aid have come to our ears. At the present time, while, I understand, a million people are out of employment in Great Britain alone, hon. gentlemen on both sides must admit that in this country not very long willing hands wait for remunerative toil. The *Toronto Mail* was, I believe, correct a few months ago, when it said, if Canadians would only devote a little attention to the literature, so-called, of poverty in other countries, they would have a higher opinion of the condition of their own. It is true that since then the *Mail* has largely changed its sympathies, so far as the two political parties are concerned, but I would not suggest, for a moment, that the *Mail* was less honest in the expression of its opinions than it claims to be at present. Whilst I am dealing with this question, I might refer in words of commendation to the efforts which are being made by the Government for the extension of the trade of this country with various countries throughout the world. We all remember that last year we were congratulated upon the exhibit we made as a country at the Indian and Colonial Exhibition in London. We are glad to learn from our busi-