

through the hot months in the committee rooms and in this chamber, will welcome any steps to render as brief as possible the session on which we are now entering. I believe, Sir, that every member of this House has come here actuated by no other view than that of legislating in the interests of Canada, however we may differ politically, and whatever divergence there may be in our views as to the methods of obtaining that great end. I would be sorry to think that there is one member in the House who has come here for any other purpose than to legislate, in order to develop the resources, to promote the industries, and to do everything in his power to further the interests of our beloved country. I believe that the members of this House, actuated by that principle, will also keep in mind the fact that Canada, while blessed in many ways, while one of the fairest of lands, while kind Providence seems to have exhausted her horn of plenty in pouring blessings upon our land, still, I hope, the members will remember that with all these blessings, we have one defect in our country. We simply as Canadians have no historic past, we have no national history to which to point our young men: a history which is necessary for the fostering of that national spirit which is so indispensable for the growth of a young country. Although we have every blessing save this of a national history, yet through our providential connection with the mother land, which can boast of a history, the most glorious amongst the nations of the earth, we become possessed of a historic past. I hope the members of this House, in legislating during the present Session, will remember that we have the great and glorious history of the mother country to look back to, and that every name in the roll of English worthies, whether heroes by land or sea, whether they are names honoured in science or literature or art, are ours as well as our fellow subjects in the mother land: that every mercantile expedition, maritime venture or missionary enterprise in which Great Britain has engaged in, is ours as well as theirs, that by every ray of glory which has glistened in the folds of the Union Jack we are as much entitled to be lighted and warmed as they, and I hope the members of this House, so remembering while sitting here to legislate in the interests of Canada, will so frame their legislation, that all their acts may also be framed with a single eye to the promotion of the interests of Canada along the line, which is at once the surest, most honourable and most permanent, that is, along the line of British connection. I have much pleasure in moving the following resolution:—

That a humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General, to thank His Excellency for his gracious Speech at the opening of the present Session, and further to assure His Excellency—

1. That we receive with much pleasure His Excellency's expression of gratification at meeting us again at the commencement of the Parliamentary Session, and rejoice that His Excellency is able to congratulate us upon the general prosperity of the Dominion, and upon the abundant harvest with which Providence has blessed all parts of the country.

2. That we share the feeling of profound sorrow aroused by the lamented and untimely death of His Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence and Avondale, and are pleased to learn that the sympathy with Her Majesty and Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, in their bereavement, which has prevailed in the Dominion on this melancholy occasion, has found expression in respectful messages of condolence from His Excellency's Ministers, from the Provincial Governments, and from many other representative bodies.

3. That we hear with satisfaction that the negotiations with respect to seal fishing in Behring Sea have been continued, with a view to the adjustment by arbitration, of the difficulties which have arisen between Her Majesty's Government and that of the United States on that subject: that Commissioners have been appointed by both Governments, to investigate the circumstances of seal life in Behring Sea, to report thereon, and to suggest the measures, if any, which they may deem necessary for its proper protection and preservation: that the Commissioners are proceeding with their deliberations in Washington, and that the results will shortly be communicated to Her Majesty's Government; and that we trust, with His Excellency, that their investigations, and the determination of the Arbitrators who are to be appointed, may lead to a just and equitable settlement of this long pending difficulty.

4. That we learn with interest that the meeting which had been arranged with the United States Government or a day in October last, for an informal discussion on the extension of trade between the two countries, and on other international matters requiring adjustment, was postponed at their request, but that in compliance with a more recent intimation from that Government, three of His Excellency's Ministers proceeded to Washington, and conferred with representatives of the Administration of the United States on those subjects: and that we are much gratified by the information that an amicable understanding was arrived at respecting the steps to be taken for the establishment of the boundary of Alaska, and for reciprocity of services in cases of wreck and salvage, that arrangements were also reached for the appointment of an International Commission to report on the regulations which may be adopted by the United States and Canada for the prevention of destructive methods of fishing and the pollution of streams, and for establishing uniformity of close seasons, and other means for the preservation and increase of fish, and also that a valuable and friendly interchange of views respecting other important matters took place.

5. That we are well pleased to be informed that, in accordance with the promise given at the close of the last Session, a Commission has been issued to investigate the working of the Civil Service Act, and other matters connected with the Civil Service generally, and that the report of the Commission will be laid before us during the present Session.

6. That we thank His Excellency for informing us that the conclusions of the Commission on the manufacture of beet-root sugar will also be laid before us.

7. That we agree with His Excellency that it is desirable that the fishery regulations in British Columbia should be examined and revised, so as to adapt them better to the requirements of the fisheries in that Province, and are glad to know that a Commission has been issued with that object.

8. That we will carefully consider the important measure respecting the Criminal Law, which was laid before us last Session, and which His Excellency is pleased to inform us has been revised and improved, as a result of the expression of views elicited by its presentation to Parliament, and will be submitted to us: that our earnest attention will also be directed to any measures laid before us for the redistribution of seats consequent upon the Census returns, for the establishment of the boundaries of the Territories, and for the amalgamation of the Departments of Marine and Fisheries: and that we will willingly consider any Bills presented to us for the amendment of the Civil Service Act, the Acts relating to real property in the Territories, and those respecting the fisheries.

9. That we thank His Excellency for informing us that the accounts for the past year will be laid before us as well as the Estimates for the ensuing year, and that the said Estimates have been prepared with a due regard to economy and the requirements of the public service.

10. That His Excellency may rest assured that these important subjects, and all matters affecting the public interests which may be brought before us, will receive our best consideration: and that we thank His Excellency for the expression of his confidence that we will address ourselves to them with earnestness and assiduity.

Mr. BAIN (Soulanges.) (Translation.) Mr. Speaker, unlike my hon. friend (Mr. Northrup) who spoke first, and those who occupied my position in former years, I have not, in undertaking the important task which is now mine, of seconding the Address in answer to the Speech from the Throne, the privilege of asking the indulgence of the hon. members of this House, on account of my youth, or of my