

It was a little vexing that our country was enveloped in dense smoke from forest fires in the adjoining American territory during the visit of the hon. gentleman, so that he could not see our country and beautiful scenery, and it is probable he has not carried away with him the impression of our Western province, which we would like him to have done. We trust however that he may not be altogether averse to repeating his visit at no very distant day; he may be sure of a most cordial welcome.

I notice also in the speech that it is the intention to have some legislation on Indian affairs.

The present law is not applicable to the more civilized Indians, and I hope the Government will be willing to take the opinion of those who are more or less conversant with the requirements of different localities.

I have been pleased to hear the high approval given to the appointment to the Chair of the House by the hon. gentleman from Ottawa, and the hon. gentleman from Halifax. I have no doubt that gentleman will discharge his duty impartially and ably, but whilst I am perfectly satisfied with the hon. gentleman now in the Chair, yet I regret very much the absence of the former Speaker who filled the position so well, I am sure every hon. gentleman present shares my regret. We were placed under deep obligation by the late Speaker and his family on very many occasions.

HON. MR. MCINNIS, (B. C.)—I rise to endorse all that my colleague from Victoria has said with respect to the visit of the leader of the Government in this House to British Columbia. It certainly was a great pleasure, and I am sure a great benefit to the Province. However, I must say that I was very sorry that he, like all the rest of the Ministers who have favored us with a visit, took up his abode and spent the greater portion of his time during his stay at the City of Victoria, thereby only carrying away a knowledge of Victoria and Vancouver Island, and not mixing with the people of the main land or the other portions of the Province. I am aware that when Ministers pay a visit to British Columbia they are hardly pressed for time, and I suppose, in view of that

fact, we will have to excuse the leader of the Government in this House for not remaining on the main land a little longer than he did.

My hon. colleague who has just taken his seat has stated that very important negotiations have just been entered into between the Province of British Columbia and the Dominion, respecting the adjustment of long-standing grievances between the two Governments. I am very happy to learn that these grievances are about to terminate. However, I do not wish to be misunderstood when I say that I think that the Bill proposing to settle all these difficulties does not meet my approval, nor does it meet the approval of two-thirds of the people of our Province. But I will not enlarge upon this question now. I hope to do so when the Bill itself comes up, and I will then show that it certainly is not in the interests of British Columbia that it should be carried in its present shape. I do not wish it to be understood that the Dominion is making a bad bargain. On the contrary, the Minister of Justice has made an exceedingly good one for the Dominion, but I believe an exceedingly bad one for the Province of British Columbia. If the present negotiation is carried into effect and placed on the Statute Book, it will become a serious drawback, yes, retard the development of our varied and vast resources for all times.

The third section of the Address refers to immigration to our shores. I fully endorse the statement made in that clause. British Columbia has certainly received within the last year a larger immigration than during the five or six years preceding, and I may say in a general way that that Province, at the present time, is in a highly satisfactory and prosperous condition.

One word as to the statement made by the hon. gentleman from Halifax with respect to British Columbia being the "spoiled child" of the Dominion. I passed a considerable number of years in Nova Scotia myself, and I always entertain a kindly feeling towards that Province, and hope to do so in future, yet I must say that if there is any portion of Canada that has been a spoiled child it is Nova Scotia. She came in, as the hon. gentleman who has just preceded me said, with her eyes open. She not only got all that was contemplated and promised when she joined