

and that the report will be submitted to us for legislation. I attach to it a great deal of importance, not only as a member of the legal profession, but furthermore, and above all, in view of the very great advantages which will be derived from the measure by citizens of this country who are not familiar with the study of our laws. During the eighteen years which have elapsed since the establishment of Confederation, so many amendments to existing laws have been passed that even legal men were obliged to make long and patient enquiries to discover all the bearings of a law. Still more numerous were the difficulties met with by people who were not familiar with our laws. But to-day, thanks to this consolidation, every one will have easy access to the laws passed by Parliament, and more than any others, members of the legal profession will owe a debt of gratefulness to the Government. The next paragraph of the Speech from the Throne tells us that we will be again invited to consider a measure relating to the representation of the people in Parliament, and for the assimilation of the electoral franchises in the several provinces. It would be useless for me, Mr. Speaker, to deal lengthily with this paragraph, for I could only repeat that which was so eloquently said last year by the mover and seconder of the Address. However, I cannot help calling the attention of the House on the importance of defining the class of voters which shall elect its own members. Is it not an anomalous fact that by the system which prevails to-day members of the House of Commons should be elected by voters chosen and pointed out by Local Legislatures? If, in order to act with more freedom in its own sphere, each Local Legislature must be thoroughly independent from the control of the Federal Parliament, for the same reason the House of Commons must be absolutely independent, either directly or indirectly, from the control or action of Local Legislatures, and, above all, not be exposed to fall, sooner or later, into the hands of an electoral division created against their will. We all wish that the relations existing between Local Legislatures and the Federal Parliament should be relations of peace and good-will. Well, Mr. Speaker, the surest means to keep them such is for all parties to entrench themselves behind their rights, to carefully watch over them and to maintain them with all their might. In such a way the positions of each will be beyond attack, and peace and harmony must necessarily prevail. The Government cannot be charged with not having worked constantly to maintain this union, not only among the various institutions, but also among the different races and nationalities coexisting in the country. I find the proof of this in that part of the Speech from the Throne which promises us that the work of the commission named to consider and report upon the whole subject of Chinese immigration with reference to its trade relations, as well as to those social and moral objections which have been taken to the influx of the Chinese people into Canada, will be submitted to the House during this Session. No doubt, Mr. Speaker, that in preparing this report due consideration has been given to existing treaties between Great Britain and China, and that, at all events, the determination to be taken on this point will be taken after that careful study which is the guarantee of sound legislation. Our attention is next called to the following paragraph:—

"Urgent representations have been made by the Boards of Trade of the chief towns in Canada, as well as by some of the Chambers of Commerce in Great Britain, of the necessity that exists for the adoption of some system of bankruptcy or insolvency giving adequate protection against undue preferences, and your attention to this important subject is earnestly invited."

Mr. Speaker, if I remember aright, when the repeal of the Insolvent Act, which existed some few years ago, was moved in this House the great majority of the House of Commons of Canada voted for the repeal. I think that the House then reflected the opinion of the people, and I am

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not aware that there are to-day any reasons for a change of sentiment. But before deciding on this question it might be well, perhaps, to form a just idea of the wants of the people on this point. As for us, members of the Province of Quebec, we have, by virtue of our civil law, an equitable mode of distributing the estates of insolvent debtors. Perhaps it would be just, perhaps it would be advantageous, for the Dominion at large to accept the mode of legislation now existing in the Province of Quebec. The next paragraph informs us that in pursuance of the vote of last Session a vessel has been fitted out and despatched to Davis' Straits and Hudson's Bay, in order to obtain more accurate information as to the navigation of those waters, and test the practicability of the route for commercial purposes. The progress of science and human faculties have, for a certain number of years, developed the natural resources to such an extent that feats which were considered as impossible even at the beginning of the present century, may now be accomplished with astounding facility. If I remember aright, Mr. Speaker, the general impression has long been entertained that it was impossible to navigate the Strait of Behring; to-day, this problem has long been solved. Why should not we be as justified to think to-day that the Hudson's Bay is navigable as people were a few years ago in believing that the Strait of Behring could be navigated? What great advantages would result for Canadian trade if we could come to the conclusion that Hudson's Bay is navigable for commercial purposes? Another paragraph of the Speech from the Throne tells us that an International Exhibition will be opened at Antwerp during the present year, and a Colonial and Indian Exhibition is to be held in London in 1886. Canada should be represented in her various manufactures and natural productions on both occasions. Mr. Speaker, the success already obtained by Canada at the various exhibitions to which it has been represented during the last few years, is certainly a great encouragement for the future. At the Philadelphia, London and Paris Exhibitions, Canada has been very successful, and I think we should send our productions to the two exhibitions which will soon take place; and increase, if possible, the quantity of articles to be exhibited, the more so as we are pursuing a policy of immigration to our country, in order to cause the richness of our soil and the great variety of our resources to be known abroad. Finally, Mr. Speaker, I beg to conclude as I have commenced, by congratulating our country on the happy condition of affairs, and on its prosperity during the commercial depression which has prevailed of late years. In spite of the numerous expenses necessitated by the administration of such a vast country as ours, a country whose population is disseminated on all points, still, the fact that the receipts exceed the expenses chargeable to the Consolidated Revenue is a proof of the spirit of economy, and of the ability of our rulers who have foreseen all coming emergencies, and have managed to throw the balance on the surplus side. Moreover, I think that I reflect the opinion, if not of the whole population, at least of the greatest part of the population, when I state that the inhabitants of this country are satisfied with their lot; that they live happy under the protection of Great Britain, and that they do not intend to transfer their fealty and homage, but that they wish to continue to live, grow and prosper under the folds of that glorious flag which ensures to them peace and prosperity for a long time to come. I have the honor to move the following Address in answer to the Speech from the Throne:—

That an 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:—

That we rejoice to know that in again meeting us for the despatch of business, His Excellency is able to congratulate us on the abundant harvest with which Providence has blessed our country, and upon the general condition of the Dominion, and to express his belief that its commercial prosperity, although it has to some extent shared in the depres-