

ment will express its opinion to that effect in a manner which His Excellency will appreciate. The Address speaks of the character of the harvest of last season; no doubt, in certain portions of the country it has not been as plenteous as in other years, but the statement in the Speech from the Throne is perfectly correct—it is plenteous and sufficient for the requirements of the country. The deficiencies in some portions of the Dominion are supplied by the extraordinary abundance of the harvest in Manitoba and the North-West Territories. On the whole, there is no reason to complain of scarcity anywhere. The next paragraph refers to the settlement of the long pending difficulties in connection with our fisheries. I am sure that this House will rejoice sincerely that this consummation has been reached and that these negotiations have terminated successfully a long standing dispute. On the whole I regard the Treaty as one which is favorable to our country without injuring our neighbors. It is advantageous to both, and I consider it is a good arrangement which is beneficial to both contracting parties. It is true that concessions have been made on both sides, but they are trifling as compared with the immense advantages to be derived from the settlement of this difficult and important question. The troubles arising from the conflicting interpretations of the Treaty of 1818, were a constant source of irritation between the two countries. What we want in this young country is an assurance of peace with our neighbors, in order that we may devote all the strength, energy and intelligence of our people to developing the greatness and prosperity of our country. Viewed in this light, it is a cause of congratulation that this source of annoyance and danger to the harmony which should prevail between the two countries has been removed. The success of the negotiations is largely due to the fact that we were ably represented at Washington—that the interests of Canada were in safe hands. Every one felt when Sir Charles Tupper was appointed that the interests of Canada would not be sacrificed—that he would defend our rights and promote our interests. No better selection could have

been made. Not only is Sir Charles Tupper a man of commanding ability, but he is a representative of one of the provinces most deeply interested in the settlement of the question. The fact that these important negotiations were intrusted to Sir Charles Tupper and his colleagues ought to be a guarantee that the interests of the country would be well protected. I have no doubt, that it will be shown, that in the negotiations he was ably seconded in his efforts to promote the interests of Canada by his colleagues, the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. Referring to the subject of agriculture, permit me to express my satisfaction at the progress which has been made of late years in this important industry of Canada. The establishment by the Government of experimental farms in the several provinces will contribute largely to the prosperity and advancement of the agricultural community. While we have made steady gains in material prosperity, unfortunately there are portions of the country in which agriculture is in a backward state. The timely intervention of the Government in establishing these experimental farms cannot fail to result advantageously to the whole community, if those who are engaged in agricultural pursuits will only benefit by the results of the experiments which are conducted upon them. I am persuaded that the Government have rendered a great service to the country in affording to the people such useful information calculated to promote the important industry so essential to the permanent prosperity of the country.

His Excellency informs us that it is the intention of the Government to modify some of the laws relating to railways, especially with a view to rendering life and property more secure upon these great highways. I believe that some legislation of the kind is necessary, in view of the numerous and terrible accidents which have occurred of late in various parts of the Dominion. If any means can be found to render life and property more secure upon the railways, it is the duty of parliament to adopt such legislation, to meet a general demand on the part of the public. This House, I am sure, will agree with me,