

Fortunately for me, though, my task on the present occasion is greatly lessened in consequence of the Speech itself being so remarkably comprehensive in its terms, the various clauses disclosing such unmistakable assurances of the prosperity and substantial progress of the country as will readily commend them to the favorable approval of hon. gentlemen without any great effort on my part to that end. All loyal and patriotic men will rejoice at the suppression of the insurrection in the North-West Territories, and will learn with intense feelings of satisfaction that peace and order now prevail in that far distant section of the Dominion. It must be likewise a source of gratification to the hon. members of this House, and to the people of this country that their fellow subjects from every province, and of every nationality and creed, evinced a patriotism and bravery worthy the past history of the races from which they spring, journeying at an inclement season of the year, and with necessarily imperfect means of communication, to a distant part of the Dominion to lay down their lives if required in the defence of law and order, and to protect the firesides of their brethren in the North-West. Such brave conduct establishes our character as a people for all future time, and make it a matter of pride for each and every one of us to declare that we are citizens of Canada.

It is to be hoped that no similar occurrence will again blot the page of Canadian history, and it must be universally conceded that the Executive have acted wisely in adopting precautionary measures to secure to the people residing in the North-West Territories, the peaceful enjoyment of all their rights and privileges as subjects of the Crown.

The practical completion of that great enterprise the Canadian Pacific Railway is a matter for the hearty congratulations of the people generally of this Dominion. This road, with its various ramifications, must ultimately prove of immense advantage in the development of Manitoba and the Great North-West, and otherwise must prove a source of incalculable benefit to the commercial prosperity of the whole country.

The construction of this gigantic undertaking has been successfully

performed within a period of time unparalleled in the history of all previous railway undertakings in any country. It seems quite evident that the British Empire has been favorably impressed with the importance of this great national highway, and the people of this country are rejoiced on hearing that Her Majesty has been pleased to confer a marked honor of distinction on the person of Sir Geo. Stephen, in recognition of his services as the leading promoter of that enduring monument which will always remain as an example of what energy and determination can accomplish, when directed by capable men with patriotic motives.

It would be considered a source of deep regret if the negotiations entered into between Her Majesty's Government and the United States, in reference to the appointment of a joint commission to adjust the fishery question, together with the consideration of the best means for the development of our international commerce, should ultimately prove nugatory. Whilst the people of this Dominion are anxious and always have signified their desire that all differences between the two countries should be discussed and amicably arranged, still the vested rights of every section of the country must be zealously guarded; therefore when all fair and legitimate exertions have been exhausted without favorable result, the recourse to the extension of the marine police, as suggested, is the only alternative that can be resorted to for the protection of our rights in the territory within and under our own special jurisdiction and control.

The residents of the North-West Territories will hail with delight and satisfaction the prospect of their enjoying at an early day the benefits incidental to their representation in Parliament on the basis as lately determined from the census returns. No act will meet with greater favor by a public hitherto unrepresented, as by such means alone are they placed in a position to make known their peculiar wants and requirements, and thus render their position as a part of the Dominion every way now satisfactory, and more in accordance with the spirit of our institutions.

It must be considered highly satisfactory that the estimated receipts of revenue of