

which now exists. I am not in a position at this moment to make any communication on the subject, but I have reason to hope and believe that at an early day, perhaps early next week, the Government will be able perhaps to make some communication.

THE CANADIAN YUKON RAILWAY.

Mr. FOSTER. May I ask the attention of the Prime Minister to one other matter? I see among many important points touched in the Speech from the Throne there is one with respect to a Yukon railway, about which we have no information before the House and no papers. Does the hon. gentleman consider we are to discuss this subject without that information, or will it be given to the House at an early date?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). As my hon. friend has observed, the Speech from the Throne refers to this matter, and proceeds to say that the contract entered into by the Government is subject to the approval of Parliament. The intention of the Government is to proceed with that measure at once, to have the Bill introduced on Tuesday next, and of course, all the papers will be laid on the Table of the House.

Mr. FOSTER. In the meantime we shall have to discuss the Speech without them. We shall have to depend on the "Globe," as usual.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). We can perhaps do better without papers sometimes.

ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

The House proceeded to the consideration of His Excellency's Speech at the opening of the session.

Mr. BERTRAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise with some degree of diffidence to perform the task which now devolves on me in moving that an humble Address be presented to His Excellency in reply to the Speech from the Throne. When asked by the leader of this House to assume this responsibility, I was deeply conscious of my inability to worthily perform such an important duty; but I realized that in being asked a compliment was being paid to the constituency which I have the honour to represent, and under those circumstances I could not do otherwise than show my appreciation by accepting, even though that acceptance brought with it an obligation which I hardly hope to satisfactorily fulfil. I am encouraged however, by the fact that a new member speaking for the first time in this House under such circumstances has always had the hearty sympathy and kind attention of all members on both sides of the House. I

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

venture to rely upon that same sympathy and that same attention while I proceed to make some references to the Speech of His Excellency.

The Speech opens with a reference to the increased importance and material prosperity of Canada during the year that has just closed. I am sure we all rejoice at the prosperity of Canada, and we also rejoice most heartily that Canada occupies a larger place in the British Empire than she ever occupied before, and that she also occupies a larger place in the eyes of other nations than at any previous time in her history; under these circumstances we may fairly congratulate the country on the position we now occupy in this respect. It is also most satisfactory to know that the credit of Canada is continually on the ascending scale, that on the European market her credit stands higher than ever; and as we continue to borrow money at lower interest and our credit steadily improves, these will tend to lessen the burdens of the people and at the same time supply us with money to open and develop the latent resources of this country.

The cordial reception which was accorded to the Canadian representatives at the Jubilee representation, I think, should afford this House a great deal of satisfaction. The magnificent reception tendered to the Prime Minister of this Dominion at the Jubilee was one that I am sure struck a chord in the hearts of the people, and although I frankly admit that the commanding personality of the Prime Minister had something to do with that reception, still on the other hand we all know that the action of this Parliament at its last session in seeking to bring about closer relations with the mother country and giving the mother country a better opportunity to secure trade with this Dominion, especially as regards exports, as compared with some other countries, also touched a chord in the hearts of the people of Old England, and this action of the Dominion Parliament was rapidly followed by the abrogation of the German and Belgian treaties, a result we had never been able to accomplish, but which was the response made by the mother country to the action of this Parliament. In that respect the action of the Canadian Parliament, followed by the action of the mother country, succeeded in accomplishing that which previous Parliaments had been trying to secure for a considerable period, but had never succeeded, and this was the response made by the people of England to the action of this Parliament on that particular occasion.

The Speech alludes to the Canadian Yukon Railway contract, and as this question has attracted considerable attention and is one of very great importance indeed, I desire to make more than a passing allusion to that portion of the Speech of His Excellency. It is one in which we are all interested; it is one relating to a matter of the