

Dominion necessitates a review of our present system of banking and an adjustment of the terms under which the charters of these corporations should be renewed. We beg leave to say that we shall not fail to give our most careful attention to this important subject.

We are gratified to learn that certain amendments to the Acts relating to the North-West Territories, calculated to facilitate the administration of affairs in that region, as also that a Bill further to promote the efficiency of the North-West Mounted Police, will be submitted for our consideration.

We also thank Your Excellency for informing us that measures will be laid before us relating to Bills of Exchange and Promissory Notes, to improve the laws respecting patents of invention and discovery, to amend the Adulteration Act, and the law respecting the Inland Revenue; to amend also the Act respecting the Geological and Natural History Survey of Canada, and to provide for the better organization of the National Printing Establishment.

We humbly beg leave to assure Your Excellency that these weighty matters, and all others which may come before us, shall receive the careful consideration from us which you have been graciously pleased to invite, and also to assure Your Excellency that you may rely upon our most earnest efforts to deal with them in the manner which, under Divine Providence, may prove most conducive to the happiness and prosperity of Canada.

He said:—It is with a considerable amount of diffidence that I rise to move this resolution. It is a duty that is assigned, as a general rule, I believe, to the junior members of this House, and while it is one of considerable importance, it is also a high honor to be entrusted with the privilege of expounding the policy of the Government so far as it is foreshadowed in the Speech which we have before us. I have to thank the Government for the appointment they have seen fit to make in summoning me to a seat in this House, and that I have been adjudged of sufficient experience to take my seat amongst the public men of the country who have been before me appointed to the Senate. I am specially pleased to follow the late member of the Senate, the Hon. Dr. Schultz, who has been such a pioneer of the North-West Territories—in fact, I may say that he is still one of the pioneers of our North-West country, as the Journals of this House will show by the services he has performed in endeavoring to probe the unknown resources of the Great Mackenzie Basin, which is one of the distant parts of our Dominion. I have much pleasure in expressing the gratification that the visit of His Excellency the Governor General has given to the people of the North-West Territories, where he had the opportunity himself of witnessing the industrious settlers of that country rough-hewing the destinies of that vast territory to

which Canada has fallen heir; and also the gratification that His Excellency has himself expressed with all that he saw in that country. It is just thirty-one years ago, this month, since I had the honor of being relieved by His Excellency the Governor General, at the School of Musketry, Hythe, when we were officers together in the British Army—he being in the Guards, and I in Her Majesty's 100th Regiment; and it is with the greatest pleasure that I take the opportunity from my seat in this hon. House to extend a welcome to him to Canada as the constitutional head of the Dominion; and I think that the country is to be congratulated upon the fact that we have a man of experience and talent to assist our Government in maintaining the constitutional privileges that have been handed down to us from the British Crown in all their integrity—a Constitution that contains the elements of freedom, that gives the greatest guarantee for the liberties of the people. Through the appointment of our Governor General we are removed from the turmoil and all the disturbing influences of a general election, and I think that the country, from one end of it to the other, appreciates the value of the services of such a talented and distinguished man as now presides over the destinies of the Dominion. I am sure that every one in Canada will learn with satisfaction that there is likely to be a speedy termination to the International question in regard to the seal fisheries in Behring Sea. It is a question which has been disturbing the people of both countries for some time, and we may congratulate ourselves upon having a Government which can support the rights and interests of the people of Canada with fitting dignity and firmness. We must all feel that it is desirable to unite with the people of Great Britain in maintaining as friendly relations as possible with the people of the United States, compatible, of course, with the dignity of our own country and the welfare of our own citizens. We are two nations, on each side of the Atlantic, numbering upwards of 100,000,000 people, speaking the English language, and in the near future we may reasonably expect that the two nations will number 150,000,000 of people, who are imbued with the same sentiments and principles of civilization, and whose co-operation cannot fail to exercise a beneficial influence in attaining a