

depression exists in free trade England as well as in this country. No doubt it does, but I think those who have read the recent debates in the British Parliament, speeches of leading men in various parts of the country, and the articles in the press of England, must be aware of the fact that it is boldly affirmed there, that free trade England is less affected by the depression, which undoubtedly does exist in many countries of the world, than France, Germany, or even the United States of America.

Now, this being so, we need not be very much surprised at the depression. We must look to time for a remedy, but the unfortunate part of the business is that a large part of the available labor of the Dominion is detached from productive pursuits. So long as prosperity exists and the employees of the manufactories are well fed and clothed they are in a happy condition; but what is to become of those persons whose prosperity depends solely on the wages of manufacturing, when the employers, through no fault of theirs, reduce employment to perhaps half-time or less, or shut up their manufactories altogether? These are questions which clearly arise out of the policy of forcing capital and labor into enterprises which, unless supported by a premium secured by a protective tariff, would have no existence, or only a limited existence, in Canada.

It sometimes occurs that subjects are not mentioned in speeches from the Throne at the opening of Parliament in which considerable interest is felt. Now there is a subject which attracts great attention in the Maritime Provinces, and much anxiety is felt as to what course will be pursued in the near future with regard to it. I allude to the subject of the Fisheries and the approaching cessation of the Fisheries Clauses of the Washington Treaty. I think it would have been a becoming thing if the Government had introduced in the Speech from the Throne a paragraph or two stating what their course of conduct had been with regard to the Fisheries and what they expected would be the result of the cessation of the Fisheries Clauses of the Washington Treaty, which is to take place next summer. I know in the Province from which I come, very considerable anxiety is felt on the

subject, by those interested in the Fisheries, and I cannot help regarding it as a serious omission from the topics alluded to in the Speech, that the coming cessation of the Fisheries Clauses of the Washington Treaty is not alluded to.

With regard to provincial rights, to which allusion has been made by a previous speaker, I must say I think it is a matter of prime importance that the position of the different provinces should be well established and well maintained. Without possession of those rights and privileges which are secured by the Confederation Act our province is in a very precarious position. The usual result of encroachments on any of those privileges is that the population commence to consider the subject of withdrawing from the Union. I myself always feel inclined to treat such things as a chimera; but I cannot help seeing that encroachment on provincial rights is a matter of most serious importance. I think they should be most carefully guarded not only by this Parliament but by all the provincial legislatures as well.

Having myself been very much interested in the subject of exhibitions generally, I think it would be most desirable that the Dominion should be represented on those two occasions which are alluded to in one of the closing clauses of His Excellency's Speech; but it is necessary with regard to Antwerp at least, that no time should be lost in taking measures to collect the exhibits which should be sent to that country. I am not aware of what time the exposition will open, but I presume it is the produce of last season, so far as cereals and articles of that description are concerned, that will be exhibited. Later on, of course, would be more advantageous to us in making our exhibit more general.

I observe that the subject of the Civil Service is to be renewed, and the Civil Service Act is to be amended, and perhaps, from its unsatisfactory condition at present, it is desirable that it should be so.

Another subject to which attention has been called is the Bankrupt and Insolvent laws, and those I think are of very great importance. I believe, myself, that we shall never have trade placed on a firm, substantial basis until we have an adequate Insolvency law. I trust during this session