

It affords us much pleasure to hear that the revenues of the country have likewise provided for all the services for which Parliament has made appropriation, and that the operation of the Government railways has been less burdensome, as regards the difference between income and expenditure, than has been the case for a long term of years previously.

We are also gratified to hear that in Manitoba and the North-west Territories the increase in immigration has been decidedly encouraging, both as regards the number of persons who have come from other countries and as regards the number of homestead entries made by settlers of all nationalities.

We thank Your Excellency for informing us that measures have been taken to carry into effect the agreements arrived at with the United States on the subjects of the boundary of Alaska, the boundary line in Passamaquoddy Bay, and the prevention of destructive methods of fishing and the preservation and increase of fish life. We are glad to be informed further, with regard to reciprocity in wrecking and towing, that though a correspondence has taken place which indicates that privileges are demanded for United States vessels in Canadian Canals, which were not anticipated, it is not impossible that a satisfactory conclusion of the discussion may yet be reached.

We hear with great interest the announcement that during the recess a friendly conference took place between delegates from Your Excellency's Government and from the Government of Newfoundland, on the questions which were pending between the two countries, and that it is hoped and expected that the interchange of views which then took place will be productive of beneficial results and lead to an amicable adjustment of those questions.

We thank Your Excellency for the information that the Statutes of 1887 relative to a Department of Trade and Commerce and to the office of Solicitor General having been brought into force, the appointments were made which were contemplated by these Acts.

We respectfully concur in Your Excellency's regret that the Government of the United States were unable to accept the suggestions made by your Government on the subject of canal tolls, and that the President should have thought it necessary to impose exceptional tolls on Canadians using the Sault Sainte Marie Canal, which has so long been free to the people of both countries. We hear with satisfaction that Your Excellency's Government, while ready to consider in a friendly spirit any proposals which may be made by the Government of the United States, have caused efforts to be made to hasten the completion of the Canadian canal works, which will soon afford to the commerce of the Dominion a highway within our own country.

We respectfully thank Your Excellency for informing us that measures will be laid before us for the improvement of the Franchise Act, for the amendment of the laws relating to the Civil Service and the superannuation of civil servants, for regulating the admission of evidence in causes and matters under the control of the Parliament of Canada, for extending the system of voting by ballot to the North-west Territories, and for simplifying the laws relating to lands and land transfers in the Territories.

Your Excellency may have every confidence that all these matters will receive our best attention and that our deliberations will keep in view, above all other considerations, the welfare and stability of the country.

He said: In rising to move the Address in reply to the gracious speech of His Excellency to both Houses of Parliament, I am sensible of and profoundly grateful for the high compliment that has been paid me. I do not, however, suppose that I have been chosen for this honourable duty, because of any special fitness that I possess, but because it is the time-honoured and courteous custom of this honourable House to grant the favour to one of its new members, and while I am not altogether inexperienced in parliamentary life, I could have heartily wished that this mantle had fallen upon other shoulders. I assure hon. gentlemen that I approach this task with a great deal of hesitancy, diffidence and trepidation, knowing that I am addressing hon. gentlemen here who have a wide range of knowledge and experience in all the avenues, not only of political but of agricultural, professional and commercial life, I therefore crave at your hands that kind indulgence, that generous consideration which it is your custom to grant to beginners. I may be permitted to say here, that I thoroughly appreciate and very highly prize the great honour that has been conferred upon me by His Excellency in Council in granting me a seat in this honourable House, and I hope that the appointment will be as satisfactory to the country as it is pleasant and grateful to me. I can assure you that the highest ambition of my life in this new sphere will be to conduct myself in such a way as not only to give satisfaction to the country, but to merit the respect, good-will and personal friendship of every member of this honourable House. Therefore, I repeat, I highly honour, prize and appreciate the privilege of sitting amongst hon. gentlemen of distinction such as this House holds. Before I proceed to the Address proper, may I be permitted to say to you that if report be true, and we hope that it is not true, we shall lose from amongst us in the near future that distinguished nobleman who has so wisely, prudently and acceptably presided over us for the last five years as the representative of Her Majesty the Queen. I think I am voicing not only the feelings and sentiments of this House but the feelings and sentiments