

000 has been obtained from the Canadian people alone. And of the interest payable on our debt in London between 1867 and 1879, the first twelve years after Confederation, the amount of that interest increased \$2,178,600, whereas in the last nine years the increase has only been \$1,084,100. That is to say, our people, through their increased wealth, are able to carry a larger proportion of the debt of the country than ever before, and to make a larger contribution to capital account for works of general utility. It is true that we have spent a good deal of money in the past, largely in connection with the Pacific Railway, but, while, when these expenditures were first contemplated, it was stated that the result would be bankruptcy and ruin to Canada, we find in the last year that the Government has been able to effect a loan in England on the best terms ever obtained by this country, that is, at 95-10 for a 3 per cent. loan, thus placing the credit of Canada on a parity with that of India and very nearly as high as that of the mother country herself. This is due to the material development of Canada which has resulted from the policy of the present Government. In the Speech from the Throne, attention is also called to the best mode of developing our trade, and securing direct communication by steam with Australasia, the West Indies and South America. These are countries which afford markets of exchange and not markets of competition. Canada has already made some progress in the development of its trade with these countries, the aggregate trade of Canada with the West Indies, South America and China and Japan, having increased in the last nine years from \$6,000,600 to \$10,518,540. In order to show the possibilities of that trade, let me mention that in 1887 the United States traded with these countries to the extent of \$234,437,000, as against an amount of \$10,518,540 for Canada; and I cannot better illustrate the promise of that trade than by making such a contrast as this between the two countries. The trade of the United States, in 1887, with South America was \$1.55 per head of the population, while the trade of Canada with South America was 48 cents per head. The trade of the United States with the West Indies was \$1.50 per head of the population, while the trade of Canada was \$1.17 per head. The trade of the United States with China and Japan was 85 cents per head, and that of Canada was only 45 cents per head. The aggregate trade of Canada with these different countries amounted to only \$2.10, while the trade of the United States was nearly double, being \$3.90 per head. It is known to you that we possess the materials of trade to the same extent, or nearly so, as the United States. If we lack anything in the way of natural products it is in respect of raw cotton, but our facilities for the manufacture of cotton are quite as good as those on the other side, and an instance of this is the fact that during the past year there have been exported from the product of the Canadian cotton mills to China and Japan no less than 12,000 bales of manufactured cotton. As another illustration of the ability of Canada to carry on successfully commerce with foreign nations if sufficient facilities are provided, I may mention that Canada's trade with Great Britain last year was \$17.90 per head, while the trade of the United States with Great Britain was \$8.85 per head, only half that of Canada. That is to say, our trade with the mother country is double that of the United States, while with South America, China and Japan, and the West Indies, it is only half that of the United States. What we require is improved facilities of communication, and these improved facilities of communication cannot be obtained without some expenditure on the part of the Government, but the results to be achieved will fully justify such an expenditure in the future, as they have justified the expenditures in the past, in relation to which I cannot state a better instance than that the cost of transportation has been so largely decreased on railroads which have been assisted by the Dominion of Canada. We find that

the cost of transportation on these railways is lower than the cost of transportation over the railway system of any other country in the world, and the credit of the country has at the same time been enhanced by its enterprise in material development. Various other measures are indicated in the Speech from the Throne, all of them designed to promote the welfare of the people, to perfect the machinery of administration, and to provide for the uniformity of the laws. If there is not much legislation proposed, we may remember that it has been said to be good policy not to make many laws, because many laws occasion much transgression. Finally, we have the usual reference to the estimates and the accounts, and it will be learned with pleasure by the House that the financial results of the last six months have assured a large and substantial surplus during the present year. The trade of the past year has been generally favorable. The crops, which contribute so largely to the revenues of the country, have not been notably prosperous, I grant you, but the harvest has been a fair one, and the prices for nearly all cereal products have been higher than usual. I quote only one fact in order to show the steady progress the country is making, and that is, that the assessed valuation of real property in the cities of Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, Sherbrooke, London, Hamilton and Halifax, which are the only returns I have been able to obtain, has increased last year by no less than \$26,191,000, or more than \$10,000,000 over the total increase of the assessment from 1873 to 1878. I have to thank the House for the patience, courtesy and kindly consideration which it has given to me, and, in conclusion, I beg to move:

That a humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General, to thank His Excellency for his gracious Speech at the opening of the present Session; and further to assure His Excellency that we are grateful to him for intimating to us that, in addressing the Parliament of Canada for the first time, in fulfilment of the important trust which has been committed to him, as Her Majesty's Representative, he desires to express the satisfaction with which he resorts to our advice and assistance.

That we thank His Excellency for informing us that he is conscious of the honor which attends his association with our labors for the welfare of the Dominion, and that it will be his earnest endeavor to co-operate with us, to the utmost of his power, in all that may promote the prosperity of the people of this country, the development of her material resources, and the maintenance of the constitutional ties which unite her provinces.

That with His Excellency we agree that it is to be regretted that the treaty concluded between Her Majesty and the President of the United States for the adjustment of the questions which have arisen with reference to "The Fisheries," has not been sanctioned by the United States Senate, in whom the power of ratification is vested, and that our legislation of last year on the subject is therefore in a great measure inoperative.

That we concur with His Excellency in the view that it now only remains for Canada to continue to maintain her rights as prescribed by the Convention of 1818, until some satisfactory re-adjustment is arranged by treaty between the two nations.

That we learn with satisfaction that a measure will again be submitted to us to amend the Acts respecting the Electoral Franchise, for the purpose of simplifying the law and lessening the cost of its operation.

That, having been informed by His Excellency that it is expedient, in the interests of commerce, to assimilate, and in some particulars to amend, the laws which now obtain in the several Provinces of the Dominion relating to Bills of Exchange, Cheques and Promissory Notes, any Bill with this object will receive our earnest consideration.

That we will carefully consider any Bill provided for making uniform throughout the Dominion the laws relating to Bills of Lading.

That we thank His Excellency for informing us that during the recess his Government has carefully considered the subject of Ocean Steam Service, and that we will willingly enter upon the consideration of a measure to provide subsidies for the improvement of the Atlantic Mail Service, and for the establishment, in concert with Her Majesty's Government, of a line of fast steamers between British Columbia and China and Japan; and that we are grateful to His Excellency for the intimation that our attention will also be invited to the best mode of developing our trade, and securing direct communication by steam with Australasia, the West Indies and South America.

That His Excellency may rest assured that any Bill submitted for our consideration for the prevention of certain offences in connection with Municipal Councils, and to give greater facilities for making inquiries as to such matters, will receive our thoughtful attention.

That we learn with interest that several measures will also be presented to us for improving the law of procedure in criminal cases, and that among these will be a Bill to permit the release on probation of persons convicted of first offences, a Bill authorising regulations to be made for the practice in cases partaking of the nature of criminal pro-