

customs and excise alone, I believe will amount to something over \$ 600,000, or almost double the amount of the whole revenue of that country for an entire year at the time we entered the confederation. That, hon. gentlemen will say, is due to railway construction in British Columbia and to the importation of necessaries for that great work, but I have to point out as well, that although our revenue has increased very largely in consequence of our tremendous imports, still, during the last year in British Columbia the exports were to the extent of something like \$1,200,000, in excess of our imports, showing that, independent of railway construction in the Province, our progress has been very great.

I am glad to see that it is the intention of the Government to open up the railway lands for settlement, not only in British Columbia, but in other parts of the North-West. I must say the reservation of those lands in British Columbia, more particularly on the Island, has been productive of a great deal of harm to the Province. People who have come there to settle, finding those lands locked up, have been driven, in many cases, across the border, and have settled in Washington Territory. It is a subject that the members from British Columbia coming to the session of Parliament felt called upon to urge particularly on the Government—that they should open up those lands for settlement. I am very glad to see that that intention is foreshadowed in the Speech from the Throne.

HON. MR. HAYTHORNE—No doubt it is exceedingly gratifying to the rulers of any free people to be able to meet the representatives of the people in Parliament, and to announce to them that universal peace and prosperity prevail; still I think that some little caution should be used in adopting language of that nature, because in so wide an area as appertains to this Dominion, it may well be that provinces, or parts of provinces, may not share in that general prosperity, and the inhabitants of those less prosperous portions of the country may feel themselves rather ignored in the midst of the general prosperity, and feel somewhat hard that their rulers have not perceived that they are in less favored circumstances than their brethern. Such, to a certain extent,

has been very much the case in the province with which I am connected. During the past season, the seed time was unusually late and wet. Hon. gentlemen may perhaps be surprised to hear me state that large portions of the seed sown in Prince Edward Island last year were not committed to the ground until late in June—in fact, not earlier than thirteen or fourteen days from midsummer. Of course the return could not be as large, under such circumstances, as usual, and the consequence was a less bountiful harvest than is generally reaped. It is quite true that the season, in many instances, has quite outdone our expectations; farmers who were despondent in the spring received bountiful returns in the fall, but as a general rule the principal grain fields of our Province were less productive than usual, and of course considerable inconvenience is felt in consequence. The farmers are importers of flour to a considerable extent, and large portions of the oat crop is not of the kind which is fit for exportation. I therefore conclude that it would be more wise to use less general and sweeping assertions, than this with which the speech from the Throne opens.

There are three clauses in this Address which I shall refer to very briefly. I do not wish to offer any criticisms upon what may possibly be the contents of the measures which are foreshadowed in these three clauses. There is this much about them, that all three (6, 7, and 8,) interfere more or less with the principle of provincial rights. In former sessions we have had examples of that. The election laws and the licensing system have always been under the control of the local legislatures. No later than last session hon. gentlemen will remember that when an hon. member of the Government who is not at present in this House, and who has retired to another sphere of usefulness, introduced a measure to regulate factory labor, he was met by the hon. Senator from Amherst with the assertion that such legislation would be *ultra vires*. Now if it should so happen that in these three instances the Government are about to introduce measures which will interfere with Provincial rights, it seems not altogether improbable that the peace,—at all events of Parliament—may be somewhat interfered with. It is not my intention go at any length into a discussion of the