

House. When I consider that, in order to deserve the interest of the House, I must comment on this document in a new and able manner, and when, on the other hand, I am struck with my own want of experience, I feel that the duty which I have undertaken to fulfil is quite out of proportion with my ability. However, in the idea that this invitation has been extended to me out of respect for the people by whom I have been chosen as their representative here, of the fine electoral division for which I am a member, and in my deep sense of gratitude for my constituents, I shall find courage enough to pursue this difficult and honorable task. Moreover, Mr. Speaker, when I throw a glance on this document and when my mind is fixed upon the numerous and important subjects of new legislation which it announces, and when at the same time I consider the general condition of the country, I feel that my task becomes easier as it becomes more agreeable to me. In fact, how could I not feel happy while inviting all members of this hon. House and the country at large to congratulate themselves on the abundant harvest with which Providence has blessed our country, and upon the general condition of the Dominion? Therefore, to Providence we owe our thanksgivings, but we should not forget to offer also to the Government our congratulations on the results of their financial policy. In fact, when we remember the disastrous effects in the country of the commercial crisis which has preceded the actual depression, when we have been in a position to have such a clear insight into the great depression which prevailed last year in Great Britain and in the neighboring Republic, when we consider the intimate and constant commercial intercourse between these countries and our own, if we look at the actual condition of our trade, we cannot certainly refrain from making a comparison between the old financial system and the present one, and this comparison being made, the superiority of the new system is not only made apparent by speeches or by words, but is perfectly established by accomplished facts and by experience. Neither can we help admiring the clever direction given by our legislators to our commerce whose prosperity to-day rests upon foundations which no temporary or partial disturbance can remove. If then, Mr. Speaker, the stability of our institutions, the safety of the present and the prospect of the future which cannot but improve the wealth and welfare of the inhabitants of this country, are as many tokens of peace and prosperity, why should we not feel confident that the year now commencing will open an era of peace and prosperity? Of peace, Mr. Speaker, not only with foreign nations, but of peace also in the union and harmony which ought to exist among citizens of a nation to enable them to make more rapid strides in the high road to progress. Our legitimate aspirations, like those of all new nations, must necessarily tend to lead us in the way of progress, and, indeed, no one can pretend that our advance in that direction has been too slow up to this day. Let us see: the immense wilderness of the North-West whose soil was heretofore untrodden except by savage tribes or by a few bold explorers endeavoring to discover the unknown, and whose echoes had only been awakened by the howling of wild beasts, that wilderness is to-day covered by a network of immense railways. Closely following in the wake of the constructors, thousands of laborers, settlers, and diligent workers have inaugurated a new era in that great country, and to-day the shrill whistle of the locomotive is heard in these new regions and proclaims loudly in all parts of that country that civilization and progress have conquered the great wilderness. But, in spite of all that has been accomplished up to this day, we have only made our first step in that direction. It is true our institutions are well established, but our traffic is daily increasing its scope, new routes of communication are furrowing the country in all directions, and soon, in a few months hence, a line of railway will cross it through and through, from one ocean to

the other. Notwithstanding this, what a great amount of work remains to be done! What a great number of resources remain undeveloped! What an extent of unsettled territory and what an amount of wealth still lies in the bosom of the earth! Even apart from the older provinces, what a great field for work is offered in the development and settlement of Manitoba and the North-West Territories! Our efforts must, therefore, be pushed in that direction, by promoting emigration in these rich and yet unsettled Territories, by aiding their colonization and development, in order that the sacrifices made in the hope of seeing one day that immense region transformed into a vast empire, may not be lost. With this purpose in view the Government have felt the necessity of encouraging the rapid construction of a railway line across these Territories, and have decided to ask the House to help the construction of that line by a liberal grant of lands. We may also congratulate the Government for the impulse which they have, by legitimate means, given to the advancement of the country. For my part I am an admirer of the system which tends to facilitate by grants of land the construction of railways, for this system gives to the immense area of lands still remaining in the hands of the Government a great increase of value, and at the same time makes of every individual interested in those grants a devoted and zealous agent of colonization. The efforts of the Government have, besides, during the course of last year, been admirably seconded by the eulogistic reports on the country made by members of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. A visit on the part of such prominent men, whose reputation for science and general knowledge is so widely spread in Europe, cannot fail to have the most happy results. Therefore, I feel confident that in the near future, the results obtained from such a visit will be made clear to us by the great increase in the number of settlers coming to our Canadian North-West. The Government, on their part, must also contribute as far as they can to promote this immigration, and they can do this by extending to the settlers coming into this country all the legitimate and efficacious protection in their power, and by giving them a simple and economical means of transferring their properties, while giving to their title deeds an indisputable character of authenticity and of validity. It is, therefore, just and right that we should respond to the appeal made by the Government to this House, in order to pass a law which will authorize a safer and more economical mode of transfer of real estate. Before leaving this question aside I beg to be allowed to allude to that part of the Speech from the Throne, which informs us that a provisional arrangement has been entered into with the Government of Manitoba on matters which have been for some time under discussion, and that a measure confirming the same will be submitted to us so soon as it shall have been accepted by the Provincial Legislature. No doubt, Mr. Speaker, that this information will be greeted with satisfaction by the whole House. Every question which has heretofore arisen between the various Legislatures and Parliament has been amicably settled. This is one of the strongest arguments in favor of our constitution, and it speaks well for the foresight of those who have conceived the plan and have carried it out. Let us hope that such differences will always be settled in the same amicable manner, so that prolonged quarrels and acrimonious contests may not trouble that harmony among the people which is so necessary to the advancement and progress of the provinces. The Speech from the Throne, Mr. Speaker, after giving us a knowledge of those measures of legislation more especially adapted to that part of the country called the North-West, points out to us measures which are proposed in the general interest of the country. I read with pleasure the paragraph which informs us that the work of the Commission for the consolidation of the Statutes affecting the whole Dominion is completed,