

does not justify such expectations. True, the working of the Intercolonial during the last year or two, has shown that a very large decrease in the working expenses may be secured by economical or efficient management. In 1878 and 1879 the working expenses of that road were about \$2,010,000; in 1879 and 1880, \$1,600,000; while there had been an expenditure in 1878 and 1879, in steel rails, of \$186,000; at all events there has been a large saving effected, comparing those two years. Then, if you take 1878-'79 and 1879-80 with a view to ascertain the country's loss in working the road, there is a marked contrast between the results for last year and those of the present year. The loss last year was \$716,000; this year it was only \$97,000. I think, therefore, the country ought to be congratulated on the fact that the road is approaching a self-sustaining position, in which it will be no longer a burden upon the finances of the Dominion. Then, making another comparison, as to the working expenses during the three months of last year, from 1st July to 1st October, the loss on the road was \$46,000; the profit during the corresponding months of this year has been \$1,400, showing it has reached the point where it ceases to be a loss to the country. Then the P. E. I. Railway, also worked by the Government, shows a decrease in working expenses, as compared with last year, of about \$50,000. But there is one feature in connection with this Intercolonial road which, probably, is of more importance than items of this character, and that is, the increasing traffic shows a marked difference from the 1st July to 30th September, 1880, between the receipts for the corresponding period of 1879, there being an increase for 1880 of about \$100,000. True, in making the comparison it must be taken into account that the River du Loup section did not belong to the road in 1879, before 13th August, and that it has had the advantage of that branch during the whole of this year. Another very important item in the Speech from the Throne is that relating to the Civil Service, an examination into and report on which will, we are promised, be made by a Royal Commission. It is, I think, a very important matter in the present state of transition in this country that the Civil Service should be placed on a footing that will equalise labor with salaries and reform those inequalities which may exist in the Service. There is one thing to regret in connection with the present condition of the country, and that is, as stated in the Speech, the condition of starvation to which the North-West Indians have been reduced this year as well as last year, necessitating a large expenditure to meet their necessities. This deplorable state of affairs cannot fail to enlist the sympathies of the House, because the sympathies of all civilized communities must be drawn to the suffering red men when, through lack of provisions, they are obliged to appeal to the Government for the means of sustaining life; and, if by promoting agricultural pursuits amongst the Indians, results of this kind may be prevented in the future, all the encouragement and aid which the Government can give towards such an end will certainly not meet with objection. The presentation to Canada for training school purposes of the steam corvette *Charybdis*, lately returned from service in the Chinese seas, by the Imperial Government, forms a pleasing feature in the Speech from the Throne. This generous act proves that the Imperial Government still retains its sympathies for us, as I am quite persuaded we do toward the Mother Country. The loyalty of Canadians is a subject that need not be dwelt upon, for we know that in every manner, and on every possible occasion, our people have been able and willing to show their devotion to the British Crown, and are prepared to give their sons such training as is needed for the protection of the country, either in the army or navy. We need not seek, as it is sometimes suggested, any new political alliance for the development of this country and the promotion of its welfare. We need not seek annexation. We are able, under the old flag, the old constitution, and

those institutions which we have, in principle, at all events, adopted, to work out the welfare of the whole community as well as we could possibly do under other circumstances. This country, in view of all the advantages it possesses in its illimitable territory in the North-West, comprising hundreds of millions of acres—with these large tracts awaiting cultivation, with our wealth in forests, fisheries, minerals and other natural resources, there is no reason whatever why we should not have in this country, if we only take proper advantage of our natural resources, millions of people to enjoy the benefits of its great territory and fertile soil. We also possess what emigrants from European countries often think they can only find in the United States. Oppressed, in some instances, by monarchical governments, they imagine that a Republican form of government is the only one which can give them that wide liberty they desire to enjoy; but I believe we can say to them that here they will possess the widest, largest, truest liberty which it is possible for any people to enjoy. We can also assure to them the enjoyment of all the privileges which flow from just laws justly administered by a Bench unsullied in honor, whose integrity and ability are, if not unequalled, certainly unsurpassed, in many respects, by any in the world;—we can assure to all classes of persons the most complete enjoyment of civil and religious liberty. I say, then, with such inheritance in our possession to bequeath to our children, we can look forward to the future with hope, with the prospect that our country will certainly become developed and enlarged in all the elements that make up a great nation; that through the present policy of the Government the improved condition of affairs and the increased confidence of the people in all that pertains to our country's advancement;—the best energies of the people, inspired by new hope, will be devoted to the promotion of the common welfare, of which every person in this Dominion, and every one who will come into it, will reap the benefit. I think, then, that I need not appeal to the patriotism of this House, to the patriotism of every Canadian, that we should all devote our best energies to building up on this continent a nation which may be second to none in all the elements of progress and happiness. What we have to do is to build up this country under a national, compact government, which will give every Province its fair consideration, and thereby prevent the creation of disturbing elements arising out of provincialisms or sectionalisms, and moulding the whole Dominion into one harmonious whole, confident in its national administration and its ability to build the great national highway, which is to be the mainstay of our progress and prosperity, which will unite still more closely in bonds of sentiments and interests the Provinces of our Confederation, extending from ocean to ocean, from the temperate to the frigid zone, and which will afford to the nations of the two continents of Europe and Asia, as well as those of this continent, a new avenue for trade and commerce. In doing this, the Government will accomplish a work that will make this country the home of an industrious, a happy and contented people. I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and the House, for the patience and indulgence accorded me, and have the honor to move the adoption of the following Address to His Excellency the Governor General, in answer to his Speech from the Throne:—

1. That an 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 receive with great pleasure His Excellency's congratulations on the bountiful harvest with which Canada has been blessed, as well as on the undoubted return of her commercial prosperity, and the substantial development of her various industries.
2. That we learn with much interest that during the recess His Excellency's advisers thought the time opportune for making another attempt to carry out the declared preference of Parliament for the construction and operation of the Canadian Pacific Railway by means of an Incorporated Company, aided by grants of money and land, rather than by the direct action of the Government; and three of His Excellency's Ministers therefore proceeded to England for the purpose of carrying on negotiations to that end.