

I always thought that they were second to none in the world. I doubt if there are any points that can be given to them by the fishermen of Holland, Scotland or any other country in Europe. It would be a much greater advantage to our fishermen if we would give them a free market for their fish—if we could obtain access for their fish to the markets of the United States, where the greater portion of their fish now goes, under serious difficulties. We should then be conferring a much greater advantage upon them. I notice that a number of Bills are to be introduced this Session, having, no doubt, a practical end in view. I would suggest to the leader of the House whether it might not be well to introduce some of those measures in this Chamber. It would give the Senate an opportunity to proceed at once to business, and relieve us from the excuse that naturally arises of having an adjournment because we have no business to do during the early part of the Session. There are several Bills that might properly be considered in the Senate, when we have ample time and opportunity to give them full consideration. I hope that the suggestion will be taken by the leader of the House, and that we shall be advised that some of these measures which are alluded to will be introduced here, in order that we may proceed to the consideration of them without delay.

HON. MR. ARMAND (in French). At the commencement of the debate on the Speech of His Excellency I desire to be just—to give to Cæsar what belongs to Cæsar. I must in the first place congratulate the Government in having called Parliament to meet at a time which is so suitable to most of the members. It is to be presumed that they will hasten the work of the Session in order that those members who are engaged in commercial or agricultural pursuits may be able to leave in time to attend to their various occupations, in order to contribute to the material prosperity of their respective Provinces and of the Dominion in general; for you know, gentlemen, that the prosperity of the Province makes the prosperity of the Dominion, and that the prosperity of the Dominion makes the prosperity of the Provinces. We are proud—we are happy to see that the Governments of the Provinces, as well as the Government of the Dominion, understand

that agriculture and commerce are the basis on which society rests—the two most powerful levers of the prosperity of our people. They are, if I may so express myself, the *deux sœurs boîteuses* who cannot walk the one without the other. Yes; we are proud; we are happy to see that the Government of the Dominion and the Governments of the Provinces understand well the truth of Mentor's saying to Telemachus, "that the more frequent the communications between nations the greater will be the prosperity of the people." As a proof of what I say, were there nothing else in the Speech from the Throne in the present Session of the Parliament of Quebec but the promise to macadamize the roads of the Province, and to do away with the tolls on the roads and bridges, which are real "Chinese walls" in the way of traffic and business, this item alone augurs well for the future of the Province of Quebec.

Hon. gentlemen, with regard to the new Minister, the present President of the Council, the Government could not have done better than to appoint a gentleman of such probity, who, during the last Session, spoke on the part of his countrymen and co-religionists, the noble-minded Englishmen, the brave Scotchmen, and the sons of the beautiful Green Isle, to proclaim in open Parliament of this Dominion the justice, the liberality of his fellow French-Canadian citizens of the Province of Quebec.

Hon. gentlemen, in regard to the present Minister of the Interior, well would it have been if like his estimable, his intelligent, his active, his laborious predecessor, the late Hon. Mr. White, if he were conscious of his duty, conscious of the dignity of his position; if such were the case, we could hope for justice for the people of the far west, particularly for the poor Métis, for those poor savages, those poor children of nature, whom our so-called civilization harasses and plunders, and which is driving them day after day farther north. I desire to render unto Cæsar what belongs to Cæsar. I wish to congratulate the Government for having, during the vacation which preceded the last Session appointed a special Commission to go to the North-West, to see if the grievances of the Indians were real or imaginary. It is my conviction, if a like commission had been named before the 16th of November, 1885, that disaster which befell the North-West and which cast dark clouds over the horizon of the Confed-