

tion concerning the Admiralty Courts of the country. This legislation becomes necessary in consequence of Imperial legislation. On 25th July, 1890, a Bill became law in Great Britain, entitled "An Act to amend the law respecting the exercise of Admiralty Jurisdiction in Her Majesty's Dominions and elsewhere, out of the United Kingdom." Clause 3 proves as follows:—

"(3). The Legislature of a British possession may by any Colonial law—

"(a.) Declare any court of unlimited civil jurisdiction, whether original or appellate, in that possession, to be a Colonial Court of Admiralty, and provide for the exercise of such court of its jurisdiction under this Act, and limit, territorially or otherwise, the extent of such jurisdiction; and

"(b.) Confer upon any inferior or subordinate court in that possession such partial or limited Admiralty jurisdiction under such regulations and with such appeal (if any) as may seem fit:

"Provided that any such Colonial law shall not confer any jurisdiction which is not by this Act conferred upon a Colonial Court of Admiralty."

Under these conditions of the Imperial Act a Bill will be introduced into this House conferring jurisdiction on certain of our courts which will act as Courts of Admiralty and try suits arising out of collisions and otherwise, which are now dealt with by the Vice-Admiralty Courts of the country. At present there is an appeal from the Vice-Admiralty Court to the Privy Council. Under the Bill to be introduced there will be an appeal from the Admiralty Court to our appellate courts and also to the Privy Council; and I trust, in framing the Bill, due regard will be had to the convenience of the different localities in which the Vice-Admiralty Courts are situated at present, and in which the shipping interests are centred. Another piece of legislation of importance that will come before the House is a Bill for the codification of the Criminal Laws of the Dominion. The codification will be along the lines of the Sir James Fitzjames Stephen's Code, which has given such great satisfaction to the members of the bench and the bar, and all interested in criminal matters in Great Britain. It will contain the common law relating to criminal law and procedure, as well as the provisions of existing statutes. This will be a matter of very great importance to the community, and will act very beneficially in like manner as the consolidation of the different Acts relating to bills of exchange and promissory notes which took place last Session, and we know what great convenience has resulted from that Act in its present form. I do not wish in any way to anticipate the remarks which the hon. the Minister of Finance will address to this House when he comes to deliver his Budget Speech, and, therefore, as regards the finances of the country, I will content myself by simply expressing the opinion that when the accounts for the past year are laid before the House it will be found that the finances of the Dominion are in an exceedingly healthy condition. It will be found, among other things, that during the year the revenue of the country has been ample to meet the ordinary expenditures, and also to carry over a large amount to capital account as well; that during 1890 we paid in interest \$8,904,944.61 as against \$9,192,995.44 paid in 1889; and also that during the year ending 1st July, 1890, we paid in interest a sum less than in any of the four preceding years. It will be gratifying to the House to know that the average rate of interest for the past year was 3.75 per cent., or a less rate than has been

paid by this country since the days of Confederation. It must be a matter of supreme pleasure to hon. members to find that the credit of the country stands so high in the money markets of the world, that we are able to borrow money at a less rate than ever before, and our credit, placed side by side with that of other countries of the world, does not suffer by comparison. Concerning the finances of the current year, I will confine myself to stating that it will be found that the trade of the country has been well maintained, that the credit of the country has been sustained, that the various services have been generously supplied, that the different sources of revenue have provided not only for the ordinary expenditures but have furnished a handsome surplus to be carried to capital account. Now that the great trunk lines of railway have been completed, now that the canal system has been almost completed, now that the greatest expenditures for public works necessary to be undertaken for more than half a century have been made, we may congratulate ourselves that the addition to our permanent debt from year to year will not be a large amount, at least not more than we may reasonably expect in years to come, with our increased population, to be able to bear without burdening the tax-payers of the country. There is a matter outside of the four corners of the Address to which I wish to refer before I take my seat. It may not be the usual course to follow, but, coming from a constituency of the Maritime Provinces, which have been most grossly and most unjustly assailed by an hon. gentleman who occupies a high position in this House, and a leading place in the councils of his party, I feel, as a representative of the Maritime Provinces, I should not be doing my duty to the people I represent did I not, on the floor of Parliament, take the first opportunity afforded me of denying and resenting the statements which that hon. gentleman hurled broadcast through the country, to the discredit of the people of the Maritime Provinces. In a letter addressed to his constituents by that hon. gentleman, who for many years has occupied a conspicuous place in the political history of the country, in an address signed by the hon. gentleman and sent broadcast throughout the Dominion by means of the newspapers, as the clouds of the recent election were clearing away, I find the people of the Maritime Provinces have been most grossly insulted and most unfairly dealt with. In that letter, written by the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright), the following appears:—

"Our opponents' array, on the other hand, is mostly, literally, a thing of shreds and patches, made up of ragged remnants from half a dozen minor Provinces, the greater majority of whom do not even pretend to be actuated by any principle save that of securing a good slice of booty for themselves and the sections or constituencies they respectively represent, and who know besides that popular feeling in those very provinces is strongly and distinctly in favour of our policy, though actual cash in hand or in the shape of railway subsidies has proved too much for the virtue of a majority of the voting population in many instances."

The hon. gentleman nods his head in assent to that statement. I might have made excuses for the hon. gentleman, considering the state of his feelings just after the recent elections, for we know that "hope deferred maketh the heart sick," and I, for one, would be glad to know that in his cooler moments he should be ready to repudiate such a