

for a delay which could not well be avoided. Another matter which I notice in the Speech, with reference to the North-West, is the establishment of an experimental farm. In a country where so many go without the necessary skill in husbandry, this must be a most important means of enabling them to perfect themselves in that industry. While the system for issuing the patents for lands in the North-West has been sufficiently thorough for the ordinary demands upon the department, up to the present time, the expected immigration and settlement in that country renders it necessary that increased facilities should be granted. We are not probably in as bad a position as the United States, so far as that matter is concerned, for I saw by a late report of the commissioner of public lands of that country, that notwithstanding the large staff of his department, and notwithstanding his efforts to keep pace with his work, he is now seven years in arrear, and has been compelled to come down to Congress and ask for authority to employ 100 additional clerks in order to wipe off those arrears. No doubt the proposed measure will obviate any further ground for complaint concerning the management of our land department. The other important measures referred to in the Address, namely, those for a better mode of trial for complaints against the Crown, for the regulating of Post Office Savings Banks in British Columbia and the North-West Territories, and for amending the Act respecting Chinese Immigration, show that the Government are not unmindful of the requirements of a progressing and progressive country, and are abreast of the times in maturing these important acts of legislation. The trade policy of the Government is one closely identified with the well-being of all classes of people. I venture, however, to express the hope that the efforts of Ministers will be directed towards expanding the commercial relations of Canada with foreign countries and with British colonies. One thing must be apparent to every unbiassed mind, and that is, that the Government in encouraging home industries has averted a great financial crisis. The truth of this statement, I submit, is established by the virtual absence of the industrial prostration which exists in the old country, and the consequent troubles which we know have taken place there quite recently. I would point to the results of the bye-elections as a sure indication that the policy of the Government on the general questions affecting the welfare of the country is satisfactory to the people at large; and I feel confident that when it becomes necessary for the electors to pronounce a verdict, their decision will be in favor of the Administration. Sir, I believe firmly in the future of the Dominion, and that if we are true to ourselves and to our national instincts the continued progress of the country is quite assured. A brilliant French writer has said: "Would you realise what is progress? Call it to-morrow. To-morrow performs its work irresistibly and performs it from to-day."

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. WARD. I do not know whether hon. gentlemen on the opposite side of the House had been reading Victor Hugo when they applied a certain name to the right hon. the leader of the Government, but I think the inference is natural, as he has been intimately associated with the progress of the country for the past 40 years. So too with Canada. Her progress towards a glorious future is, I believe, irresistible. No matter what difference of opinion may exist between the two great political parties as to the manner in which that future is to be worked out, no matter which party may, for the time being, control her destiny, that progress, subject, it is true, to temporary checks, will go on until Canada rises to a proud position among the countries of the earth. The great Liberal party will, no doubt, at some time, though perhaps not in the immediate future, be called on to assume the reins of power; but that

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day would not be more distant if they would give a fair and liberal support to the Government in working out the great problem of the management of our North-West Territories. At this period of our history, I think a few words uttered by Mr. Gladstone at the recent opening of the Imperial Parliament are very apt indeed. He said:

"Let us not deviate from the path of good temper and self command, but, forgetful of every prejudice, let us strive to do justice to the great, the gigantic interests committed to our charge."

Canada has great and gigantic interests, and the people have committed them to our charge as their representatives—a sacred trust. May that trust be faithfully performed. Mr. Speaker, I desire to express to you, and through you to the House, the gratitude I feel for the kind and courteous attention with which you have listened to my few and imperfect remarks. I beg to second the resolution now before us.

On paragraph 1,

Mr. BLAKE. I beg, Sir, on behalf of those with whom I have the honor to act, to extend the customary congratulations to the gentlemen who have just discharged, in so able a manner, the duty of proposing and seconding the Address, and to assure them that, however much we may differ from them in their political opinions, and however deeply we may regret the loss of those whom they are called on to replace, we heartily wish for them a long and honorable career in the councils of the country. The first observation I have to make is one I made a Session or two ago, on the same occasion; that is, to express a regret at the late period of the year at which we are discharging this, our initial duty. I express that regret with the stronger feeling, because it was announced to us by the First Minister, last Session, or the Session before, that we were to meet earlier in the future, because we have for some years been meeting much earlier than we are now met, and because there was a general understanding and pledge to a January meeting; I do not mean to say a pledge that was not to be broken if a great public emergency should call for delay, but certainly a pledge that ought rigidly to be observed, unless there was some great emergency of which we have not heard as yet. It is to the public interest that we should meet earlier, because this is the period of the year which will best enable the legislators of the country to discharge their duty, and best enable the people of the country to discharge their not unimportant part in connection with the business of legislation. As soon as the spring opens, both we and they are distracted with other things, and therefore it is a material thing for us, circumstanced as this business country is, that we should have a more distinct understanding, if such be possible, that our Session should not commence at what I regard as an unreasonable time. The question to which the hon. gentlemen have alluded, but particularly the hon. member for St. John (Mr. Everett), of the fishery and trade negotiations, is one with regard to which we certainly receive the expression of the Speech with feelings different from those which hon. gentlemen who confide in the First Minister may be apt to entertain on this occasion. We remember the dramatic air with which the hon. First Minister, towards the close of last Session, stated, that whatever opposition he might have expected from us on this side, there was one thing he did expect—that was, great praise for the consummate diplomatic tact and power which he had displayed in the management of the fishery question. He said that, whatever other fault we might find with him, his armor was impregnable there, and that in that aspect he should be received with pæans of applause from his opponents. The hon. gentleman who seconded the Address is apparently not aware that it was the Indians of the North-West who gave the title of "Old To-morrow" to their chief superintendent, their