

adopted a policy which the former Administration adopted here, and that policy, I understand, has not met with any serious disapproval in England. More recently, or quite recently, the Dominion of New Zealand, which had, at first, adopted the plan of the hon. gentleman, has fallen back upon the plan of the former Administration. The people of England do not seem to think that Australia or New Zealand has done anything very disloyal, or improper, I think it is better not to use too strong language, in a case of this sort.

Perhaps I may be permitted, having said a word about this question with which my two hon. predecessors have dealt so fully, to deal with the Speech from the Throne as it has been submitted to us. I cordially endorse everything that has been said by the hon. gentlemen who preceded me with respect to the sympathy felt in Canada for their Royal Highnesses in connection with the serious illness of the Duchess of Connaught. His Royal Highness, in the Speech, said that during the serious illness of Her Royal Highness much comfort and support were afforded to him and the Duchess by the numerous messages of sympathy received from Canada. I wish here to assure Their Royal Highnesses that the sympathy was not confined to the people who sent messages. The people of this country universally sympathized with Their Royal Highnesses in their affliction, and rejoiced exceedingly at the providential recovery of the Duchess of Connaught. The whole people of this country unite in trusting that Her Royal Highness may shortly be restored to perfect health.

I do not propose to deal with all the clauses of the Speech, but there are two or three to which I think it well to refer. The fifth paragraph says:

As a result of the recent decennial census the representation of the different provinces must be readjusted, as required by the British North America Act, and a Bill will be introduced for that purpose.

That is a right and proper thing to do. The only thing is that the redistribution measure should have come last year. The hon. gentleman told the House that the measure would be one that would commend itself, as I understood him, to our good judgment and sense of fair play. I hope that such may be the case. It would, perhaps, be wise for the Government to follow the example of their predecessors and allow the general scheme of redistribution, at any rate, to be referred to a committee con-

Hon. Mr. POWER.

taining representatives of both parties. That was the course adopted after the census of 1901, and it was the course followed by Mr. Gladstone in England in 1884. Speaking with respect to this redistribution measure, and speaking only for myself, I may say that if the measure is one involving a gerrymander, this House would be perfectly justified in declining to pass it without such amendments as would commend themselves to any fair minded man. My hon. friend to my right (Sir George Ross) referred to the fact that on previous occasions, when the Conservative party had a majority in this House, they did undertake to deal with measures which were, in a sense, redistribution measures.

The next paragraph says that a Bill relating to the Civil Service will be submitted for our consideration. I trust that the effect of this measure will be to put the Civil Service on a business basis, and also that provision will be made for retiring allowances to deserving civil servants, and to protect their dependents from beggary. I assume that to a certain extent the measure to be introduced by the Government will follow the lines set out in the report of Sir John Murray. The Government cannot go far wrong if they follow his recommendations.

The seventh paragraph says that among the Bills to be submitted will be measures providing for an increased representation of the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia in the Senate. The gentlemen whom we have representing those provinces in the Senate at the present time are of such a character that we should hail with pleasure an addition to their number, and when the representation of the Western provinces in the popular House has been satisfactorily adjusted I have no doubt this House will be prepared to concur in any Bill to provide for a reasonable increase in the number of Senators from that portion of Canada.

The ninth paragraph of the Speech says:

You will be pleased to learn that satisfactory arrangements have been made with the various provinces under the Agricultural Instruction Act passed at the last session. My advisers are convinced that the co-operation between the Dominion and the provinces which is thus afforded, will accomplish excellent results, in assuring better agricultural instruction and needful improvement of existing methods of agriculture.

We naturally are pleased at the good results which are to flow from the co-operation of the Dominion and the provinces with