

fitly this role, and do so with a full knowledge of the circumstances, he has prudently visited all parts of the Canadian Empire, familiarizing himself with our history, and with the past of our public men. He has studied thoroughly the genius of the Canadian people, noting its peculiarities, and he made this study in the quality of a savant, man of letters, philosopher, and statesman. For my part, Mr. Speaker, as a French Canadian, and as a member of this House, I cannot forget or pass without special mention what he has done for my countrymen in one of his speeches delivered on the other side of the Atlantic, in pointing out to the admiration of the English people all the qualities which he observed amongst us; and in particular our aptitude for thoroughly comprehending and understanding, as well as assisting in the proper working of the magnificent political institutions which we have inherited from England—our disposition for enjoying, as loyal and enlightened citizens, the constitutional *regime* so long refused to our fathers. I have only one wish to express, and that is, that my countrymen will continue to merit so flattering a eulogy, and that by their loyalty, as well as by their moderation, their conciliatory spirit in their relations with other races and other creeds, and their respect for the civil authority and the State, they may ever be known as models to be followed by the different nationalities of which, with them, the people of Canada is composed. A commercial depression such as has seldom been felt, has visited the New World as well as the Old, and has not spared Canada, having seriously affected her commerce. It is a cloud that darkens for a moment the sun of our prosperity. Mention of this trying period could not be omitted in the speech from the Throne. Let us hope with His Excellency, that the omens which we now witness are but the forerunners of a great commercial revival—of a salutary and lasting activity in business; and let us thank Providence for having saved us from the extreme consequences of this crisis, which fortunately has left the germs of our national prosperity intact. The approaching comple-

Mr. TASCHEREAU.

tion of the colossal enterprise which, according to the Act of 1867, is destined to unite the Old Province of Canada with the Maritime Provinces, is an event which we shall all welcome with delight. We can all appreciate in anticipation the tremendous results which will follow for the whole Dominion by the completion of the Intercolonial. By going back less than 20 years, when ordinary communication was so long and difficult between the Province of Quebec and New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, when the commercial relations were almost *nil*, we can better understand the importance of this great railway when it shall be open for traffic, and when, with the assistance of other branch roads, merchandise and produce will be transported without interruption from Halifax and St. John to the most distant railways in Ontario. This enterprise, which is the necessary complement of the work of Confederation, was long retarded by inevitable causes, or rather causes that were preventible, but in regard to which little trouble was taken to overcome. The activity and supervision of the Hon. Minister of Public Works since he has been in power have greatly contributed to hasten the day of inauguration, and I hope this day next year, our friends the Members for Halifax, St. John, Richmond, Inverness, Northumberland, Sunbury and other counties in the Maritime Provinces will be able to say that they are come to fulfil their legislative duties without having had to pass through our neighbours' territory, and that they have made the journey entirely on Canadian soil. Our young Province, the Island of Prince Edward, to which Heaven has denied nothing in respect of climate and natural beauty, had not until last year the advantage of an iron road throughout its length. Let us, with His Excellency, congratulate it on the opening of the Railway. I am told it is troubled with *détours* and caprices. But an alley too straight through a beautiful garden would spoil the garden's picturesqueness. Our lovely little Island of Prince Edward, which is nothing less than a garden surrounded by water, did not want a direct alley, which would have destroyed the poetry of the thing and suppressed the pic-