

additional rolling stock and other improved facilities, for handling the growing traffic, His Excellency's Ministers availed themselves of the opportunity to stipulate that the long pending question of the power of the Governor in Council to regulate the tolls of the company should be submitted to the courts for a judicial decision, and we thank His Excellency for informing us that the correspondence and other papers will be laid before us.

6. We are pleased to be informed by His Excellency that the inventor, Mr. Marconi, having met unexpected obstacles to the carrying on of his experiments of wireless ocean telegraphy in a sister colony, His Excellency's Ministers deemed it expedient to invite him to continue his operations on the coast of Nova Scotia, and availed themselves of his presence in Canada to enter into negotiations resulting in an arrangement through which, should the project prove as successful as is hoped for, the government and people of Canada will enjoy the benefits of the invention on very favourable terms, including rates for transatlantic messages very much below those now existing.

7. We are gratified to know that the display made by Canada of her products, at the several expositions at which they have been exhibited during the last year, has attracted much attention, and has already resulted in many inquiries and orders for our goods.

8. We receive with much pleasure His Excellency's congratulations on the satisfactory condition of the revenue and on the steady and continuous expansion of the general business of the country as evidenced by the increased volume of exports and imports.

9. We learn with much interest that, with the view of still further facilitating and developing our trade with other countries, it will probably be found expedient to increase the number of our commercial agencies, and we assure His Excellency that we will willingly consider the desirability of making additional provisions for that purpose.

10. We thank His Excellency for informing us that the governments of Australia and New Zealand have accepted an invitation from His Excellency's government to attend a conference in London next June for the consideration of trade, transportation, cable and other matters of intercolonial concern, and we unite with His Excellency in the hope that the meeting may lead to an extension of Canadian trade with those important portions of His Majesty's Dominions.

11. Our thanks are due to His Excellency for the information that his government, having caused inquiry to be made, has reached the conclusion that the establishment of direct steamship service with South Africa would enable Canada to secure in that country a profitable market for her varied products, and that, to that end, His Excellency's government will endeavour to arrange for such a service.

12. We are gratified to learn that His Majesty has been graciously pleased to invite the Premier to be present at the ceremonies attending his Coronation, and we share the hope that the presence of the leading statesmen of the several colonies upon this occasion will afford an opportunity for the discussion of subjects of mutual interest which may considerably affect the development of our trade and commerce in the near future, with the mother country and with our sister colonies.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE.

13. We thank His Excellency for informing us that the public accounts for the last year and the estimates for the succeeding year will be laid before us without delay.

14. His Excellency may rest assured that the above matters and all others which may be submitted to us will receive our earnest consideration, and we thank His Excellency for the expression of his reliance upon our wisdom and prudence to deal with them in the manner which, under Divine Providence, may prove most conducive to the best interests of Canada.

Hon. Mr. THOMPSON—I hardly know just how it happens that I am to-day seconding the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. I think I must have, without understanding the nature of the obligation, consented to the proposition of the hon. gentleman opposite, who represents the government, that I should second the motion to adopt the address in answer to the Speech. I do not intend to make any lengthy remarks on this occasion. I am simply seconding the address, as the result of having been invited to do so. The address of itself covers a great many important matters. It practically makes statements on subjects which are important and are not controversial, in my opinion, and in seconding the address to-day I feel a great deal of diffidence, although I am not entirely new to the work of legislative bodies, because I have had some experience in connection with the legislature of New Brunswick. Still, the introduction into a new House and a new condition of things cause a great deal of diffidence on my part, not being acquainted with the parliamentary usages of the House and I find it to be a matter of considerable difficulty to address this House. But hon. gentlemen I presume that in connection with the obligations, and duties devolving upon members of this House, that we are here for the purpose of dealing with questions. We are here for the purpose of dealing with measures. We are here for the purpose of discussing questions of general interest to the people of Canada at large, and the address which we have before us touches very many important matters. Dealing as it does, in the first portion, with the products of Canada, I feel that, with regard to such matters, the Canadian people are at all times ready to give thanks to Providence for the great benefits they enjoy, and it is partially due to the fact that Canadians help themselves under