

and which are intended to be the basis of an answer from this House to His Excellency's Speech. The different subjects of that Speech have been sufficiently discussed during this debate by both sides of the House to enlighten the Government and show them what the views of the people of this country are regarding the financial and commercial affairs of the Dominion. Arguments have been advanced for and against the statement that this country has made material progress. It seems to me there can be but one opinion as to the great advance that this Dominion has made during the 30 years of its existence: but it cannot be denied that at the present moment and for some time past something has been wrong. It cannot be denied that the National Policy has done much good, but I believe that at the present moment some change is necessary. The manufacturers got the best of this policy, and in my opinion the time has come when the farming community should have their turn. Some changes in the tariff would probably improve the situation as far as it possibly can be improved under the circumstances in which we are now placed, and these changes would no doubt satisfy the people. It seems that the Government have been aware of this, if I have rightly understood the speeches made during recess by a certain number of Ministers. Such being the case, I do not see the advantage of discussing those important questions at the present moment. It is only occupying the time of the House to no good purpose, since more advantageous opportunities will be given during the session for the discussion of the different subjects and measures foreshadowed in the Address, or announced in the speeches I have referred to. I think the best thing for independent members of this House to do is to wait until these measures come up, and give the Government time to develop their policy and show what they can do. I consider it would be utterly wrong on my part if I allowed this opportunity—the first I have had since the reconstruction of the Cabinet—to pass without congratulating the hon. Premier on his choice of the late Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Quebec—the Hon. A. R. Angers—to replace the late Hon. Dr. Paquet as Senator for the division of de la Vallière, and to fill the honourable position of Minister of Agriculture for the Dominion. By this action of the Premier, the French minority have now

a representative of their own on the Treasury benches, and a leader speaking their own language in this House. A better choice could not have been made. Though quite a new member of the Federal Parliament, the Hon. Mr. Angers is well-known for his talents, ability and energy. He certainly will be an ornament to the Senate, and will, no doubt, be an honour to his province. I also congratulate the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce on his appointment to this House, and to its leadership. No doubt the long parliamentary career of the hon. Minister will be of great advantage to the Senate; and, as an old colleague of his in the House of Commons, I beg to tender him and the hon. Minister of Agriculture—also a colleague of mine in old times in the Local Assembly of Quebec—a hearty welcome. I propose to deal more particularly with the necessity which exists for the Senate having a certain number of the advisers of the Crown chosen from among the members of this House, and occupying seats in this House. This proposition not being, strictly speaking, a constitutional one, as is that of having French speaking Ministers, I intend to give it a little more attention. It is now nearly fifteen years since the late Right Honourable Sir John A. Macdonald resumed the position which he held to the day of his death. It is also fifteen years since the French minority in the Senate were deprived of their constitutional right to have a member of the Cabinet speaking the French language sitting in this House. It is also fifteen years since the late Sir John A. Macdonald took his first step towards depriving the French speaking people of their right to be represented in both Houses by Ministers of the Crown speaking the French language. To-day I am happy to congratulate the present Government upon having righted this wrong. From the very first day when the Confederation Act was put into force in 1867, until 1878, when the late Sir John A. Macdonald took office a second time, this House had never less than two of its seats occupied by ministers, and one of those always a Senator speaking the French language. But ever since 1878 till the date of the action of the present Government which I have just commented on, this constitutional right of the French minority was ignored by both leaders of the two preceding administrations. In vain did the French members of this