

it is one to which I hope the government will direct their attention at the earliest possible moment, because I see that the Leinster Regiment is under orders to embark this month.

The PRIME MINISTER. What paper is it in?

Mr. McNEILL. I saw it in the *Journal* of last night.

The PRIME MINISTER. I will inquire.

Mr. McNEILL. I see the Minister of Militia is now in his place—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. McNEILL. You need not call order about a thing of this kind. Surely we are all agreed upon this matter, and it does not matter if I take up a moment or two in reference to a question of this magnitude. The Minister of Militia is in his place, and perhaps I may be allowed to ask him whether his attention has been called to the fact that the Leinster Regiment is about to be removed from Halifax to South Africa for active service; and whether if that be the fact, he will take steps to place Canadians as a garrison in Halifax in place of the Imperial troops which are about to be moved, so as to obviate the necessity of a militia regiment being sent across the Atlantic from the mother country; also, whether he will take into consideration the advisability of offering a Canadian regiment to take the place of the regular troops which are at present in Bermuda, and who would then be set free to assist in South Africa. My hon. friend, I see, is smiling at that, but I do not think that this is a matter for levity at all; I think this is a very serious matter with which we are face to face at the present time.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). My hon. friend is opening up a very wide subject, I think, one that can scarcely be discussed in the manner in which the hon. gentleman has brought it forward. It would require some notice and some consideration. With reference to the first question which he has put, I may say that I have only the information he has, that which is derived from the press. I know nothing further with reference to the withdrawal of the Leinster Regiment. As to the other matters to which he has referred, I should be very happy to give them, as I have already done to some extent, careful consideration.

Mr. McNEILL.

ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

The House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Gould for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session.

MR. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, under happier auspices I may venture to ask the attention of the House for a very short time, I hope, whilst I make a few comments on the address in reply to the speech from the Throne. But before proceeding to the question which took up so large a part of the attention of the House yesterday, I have some observations to offer on some of the other clauses of the address. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Gould) who made his maiden speech in this House in moving the resolutions, said that he did not think that any person had ever risen in the House of Commons at a more auspicious period than he himself did to move the reply to the address. I have a fairly distinct recollection that I made myself almost the same remark when, in 1883, I had the honour of performing that duty. I imagine it is a feeling in which most movers of the Address for the first time, indulge. I must say, however, that outside the general observations of that hon. gentleman, I have one or two criticisms to make provoked by another statement of his, which was to the effect that this great and abounding prosperity was due to the policy and to the administration of the present government. In the first place he declared that it did not require figures to prove prosperity at this time; but I notice that he did still have some faith in the efficacy of figures, as he gave to the House rather an abundant quota of them.

Now, so far as the prosperity of this country is concerned, all my colleagues on this side of the House join me in the pleasing duty of congratulating the country on its continued prosperity. When I use the word 'continued,' I use it because I think it expresses a truth. I suppose that no sensible man on the other side of the House, in his cool moments, however partisan he may be, will attempt to argue that prosperity had its beginning with the advent to power of the present administration. I know that this is a euphemistic way of putting the matter in praise of the administration; but I always imagine that I see a smile lurking somewhere on the countenance of the hon. gentleman who uses it, and at the very time that he is using it. Everybody with good common sense and the average intelligence, and, I suppose, all of us in his House may lay claim to that, knows that there are cycles in prosperity, that there are periods of lesser and greater prosperity. I think every one residing in Canada, who has paid