

quisition to this Chamber. His address was naturally a very fulsome approval of the acts of the Administration. That was natural to expect, and I do not propose to carp at his utterances in that regard. He was in sympathy with the Administration, and he naturally gave utterance to the views that he and they hold on the several subjects to which allusion is made in the Speech from the Throne. The hon. Senator from Charlottetown apologizes for being obliged to second this Address, inasmuch as another gentleman had been selected to perform that duty. He need not have made any apologies to this House, because we are always very glad to hear him. Last year, I think, was his first session in this House, and the verdict was that the hon. gentleman was disposed to take a very fair and just view of the several subjects brought before this Chamber for its consideration. I confess I was somewhat startled at my hon. friend's utterances to-day in reference to this question of protection. He came out very strongly on the subject of that policy. I had hoped that he had entertained a somewhat more liberal and reasonable view of the subject. I certainly was surprised to hear him find fault with the introduction of American flour and pork into the ports of the Lower Provinces, because I had understood that the people of the Maritime Provinces, particularly New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, who did not produce enough of those articles, were very glad indeed to buy them if they could get them cheaper from the Americans than from others—that it rather helped the industries of the Maritime Provinces to get those important articles of food at as low a rate as possible. I question very much whether the policy that he suggested as the true one for this country, to keep out the cheaper products of the United States, would meet with the approval of the people in the Maritime Provinces. Both gentlemen have commented somewhat upon the general prosperity of the Dominion. It would be strange, indeed, if a young and vigorous country like Canada did not at all times, in spite of fiscal laws, show a considerable amount of prosperity, when you consider that we have as fine fisheries, I suppose, as they have in any other part of the world—that we have magnificent forests, which are unsurpassed in any other country—that we have broad acres of land from the Atlantic to the Pacific which

yield most generously, and that in some years produce very much larger quantities than in other years, and that we are enabled by the enormous production of our lands to increase our exports abroad—that we have mines undeveloped, partially developed, and in various stages of development, in many parts of the Dominion—it is not to be wondered at that there should be some degree of prosperity in a country under such peculiar conditions. It would be strange if it were otherwise, but it cannot be contended for one moment, although that would be the general drift of the hon. gentleman's argument, that the Government of the day, by their fiscal policy, were entitled to some degree of credit for these increased exports, from one year to another. Surely they do not claim credit for having produced a larger crop last year than under ordinary conditions could have been produced. There can be no such pretension. Our natural wealth, year by year, ought to increase with the larger area that is brought under cultivation. If the North-West is to prove of value to us, as I am sure it will, the larger the area cultivated the larger will be the quantity of products for export, and there is no doubt that the huge export this year will tell on the prosperity of the Dominion next year. We shall probably have a larger amount of imports during next year, due to these causes, which are not causes that the Government can influence. They may in some degree rather retard the progress of the country, but they do not and cannot attempt to facilitate them. The paragraph of the Speech which has reference to the death of His Royal Highness is one which we all join in. Canadians without distinction earnestly unite in expressions of sorrow at the sad death of His Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence, not only that he was the heir presumptive to the British throne, and has been cut off in his early manhood, but that a new affliction in his death has visited Her Majesty, in whom we all take such a deep interest. During the 55 years that she has sat on the British throne the tie between Her Majesty and her subjects has grown. Among the 250,000,000 of people that acknowledge her sway, they all on the recent sad occasion felt sorrow that the Queen should have a new grief, and sentiments similar to those that were spoken of here a few minutes ago went forth from all parts of the world, because the British people now