

Commons. If the Government had followed the usual, and, as I think, the proper course, and appointed a member of the Senate, there would have been no necessity for spending \$3800 in buying up the opposition of an influential and obnoxious gentleman in one of the counties of Quebec. Turning to the Address, I have to join with the two hon. gentlemen who have spoken on this side of the House in congratulating the Senate on the very welcome addition to their numbers, in the persons of the gentlemen who moved and seconded the Address. The hon. gentleman who moved the Address, spoke with that ease and fluency which seem to characterise almost all the French speaking members of this House, and the other House as well, and the hon. gentleman who seconded the Address, is clearly gifted with the eloquence, for which a great many Irishmen, at any rate, are remarkable. Not being an Irishman myself, I think I can venture to say that. One of the things which I presume struck almost every gentleman present, is that the regular Opposition in this House is reduced to almost nil. I think that that is an additional reason why this House should be more independent, and less partisan if possible than it has been in the past ; and I hope that the measures which the Government will introduce here, will receive from the members an independent and fearless criticism, and that hon. gentlemen will deal with those measures in the interests of the country, and not of party. I think the fact that there is practically no regular Opposition, is a cogent reason why that should be the case. The hon. gentleman who seconded the Address, is a valuable accession to this House. He has had a life long training in the Reform camp, and he has there learned the sound doctrines that people do learn in that school, and I have no doubt he will be able to deal independently, with all measures brought by the Government before this House.

With the general tone of His Excellency's Speech we can all concur. We are glad to know that Canada is in the enjoyment of peace and prosperity ; and we should be glad to know that all our industries are in a healthy and improving condition. It is true that the crops during the last year were better than usual. I know that they were in the province from which I come ; but, although the crops

have been good, I do not think the prices of farm produce—of certain kinds at all events—grain for example, which it was understood was to be so largely increased by the National Policy, have been as large as they had been in former years. I know that in the Province from which I come, certain interests, such as the fishing interest, while fairly successful, have not been as prosperous as in certain other years. I doubt very much whether our manufacturing and commercial industries are in a prosperous condition : the assertion is not borne out by the facts. We have the president of the largest bank in the country intimating in very distinct terms that he thinks a period of depression is about to set in. We have within the last few days seen the report of the directors of the largest sugar refinery in Canada, which was not couched in cheerful language. That report certainly did not indicate that the sugar refining industry was in an improving condition—on the contrary. In fact, as to sugar refining and cotton manufacturing, and a good many other industries of that sort the natural result of excessive protection is coming about. A great many went into the business which promised at first to be exceedingly profitable. The business has been over-done ; the profits are diminished; and in a year or two we shall probably see a number of the smaller and less wealthy establishments coming to grief. I do not think, therefore, that all the manufacturing and commercial interests of this country are in a healthy and improving condition. I have not heard any one point out yet how they were improving. I was very much gratified to learn from the honorable gentleman behind me that the people of British Columbia are as much gratified as were his Excellency and her Royal Highness at the visit which they made to that country. We are all naturally pleased, too, that in the United States so good a feeling exists towards us and towards the mother country.

I think that the Government will take advantage of this good feeling to endeavor to renew at the earliest possible moment, and on the most favorable terms possible, the reciprocity treaty which some years ago proved of such great advantage both to Canada and the United States.

The fifth paragraph of the Speech speaks of the steady flow of settlers into the