

the discussion to the mover and seconder of the address, the leader of the Opposition and the gentlemen representing the Government in this House. It is, I think, a more convenient mode of discussing and replying to the Address from the Throne than the manner which has been adopted on this and previous occasions in this House. But, of course, it is a matter in the discretion of hon. gentlemen, and it only rests with me, as the leader of the Government in this House, to bow to the course which hon. gentlemen see fit to pursue.

I was glad to listen to the remarks made by my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition—the generous remarks—with reference to the gentleman who has been selected by the Government to fill the distinguished position of Speaker of this House, and I will only add to those remarks the expression of my own conviction that when that hon. gentleman shall have descended from the Throne, those of us who may then be alive, and who will have his career to consider, will find a record of great ability and undoubted impartiality in the discharge of the high duties which he will have performed amongst us.

I join also with my hon. friend in the congratulations which he extended to the mover and seconder of the Address. The hon. gentleman who did the Government the honor of moving the Address, has long occupied a distinguished position in Lower Canada, and from him we expected—what the House undoubtedly heard—a very able and eloquent address.

I have no doubt that we shall derive great advantage from the assistance which that hon. gentleman will be able to bring to the debates of this House. I only wish, with my hon. friend from Halifax, that there had been additions to the Senate from the same profession to which my hon. friend belongs, and to which I have the honor to belong, and which is often spoken of disparagingly, if not exactly with ridicule or contumely, but which, nevertheless, as a profession, is one of great usefulness, and one whose members bring to the deliberations of Parliament in this House and in the other branch of the Legislature, knowledge which is not common to the general run of those who occupy seats in Parliament and the possession of which is undoubtedly a

great advantage to the persons who bring it to bear upon the debates, and also, I may venture to say, a great advantage to the debates themselves and to the deliberations and conclusions of Parliament. I do not propose to go through the discussion which has taken place, but there are some statements which have been made, and which I think it is desirable to correct—some statements which have fallen from the hon. leader of the Opposition, which I am sure are not such as he would desire to make but which are incorrect and deserve notice and correction at my hands. The hon. gentleman is unwilling to allow to the Government any credit for the prosperity which the country, he admits, has enjoyed for the last three or four years. I will not enter into that discussion which is so dear to political economists that they never will allow the slightest opportunity to pass without entering into it, as it seems to them to present attractions which they cannot resist. I will not enter into that discussion. I do not propose to stop to consider whether the prosperity which the country has enjoyed is to be attributed wholly to the causes to which the hon. gentleman has referred, or whether it is not to be attributed partly to those causes, and partly also to the efforts the Government have used to take advantage of those causes. I have no doubt that that is the true theory, and that it is the conviction which has taken the mind of the country, and I would just point that out to my hon. friend. Whether he is right or wrong it is certainly clear that the country, by its voice and by the representation which it has sent to the other branch of the Legislature, has said in the most marked manner possible that the people believe that the Government is entitled to some credit for the course which they have pursued—and which the Government of the hon. gentleman opposite neglected to pursue—a course which, at all events, has helped to some extent to restore prosperity to the country. That is the settled conviction of the people, and it has been demonstrated by the returns to the other branch of Parliament.

Now, I leave that and proceed to some other corrections which I desire to make. The hon. gentleman speaking of the prosperity of the country, referred to the increased traffic enjoyed by the Intercolonial