

by preceding statesmen of that great name. We at all events must feel sure that His Excellency, having gained a very intimate knowledge of this country, will give us the benefit of that information when he returns to the mother land; and here I may say that I think it would not be proper to forget the distinguished Lady who has dispensed the hospitalities of Rideau Hall. She has taken a warm and a deep interest in the people of this country and has made herself beloved all over the land. We shall, when the time comes, express our great regret at their leaving and one and all from every part of Canada will join in assuring them that they have earned the esteem and the respect of the people of this country.

The hon. the seconder of the resolution has referred to another subject that is somewhat personal, and that is the absence of Mr. Abbott. We all deeply regret the cause of it. Mr. Abbott had, in the period when he led the House, gained for himself the regard of every Senator in it. He had very great consideration, not alone for the large following which he had in this House, but also for the very small minority of the Opposition. He was exceedingly kind and considerate, and it was very pleasant also to have had interviews and communications with him, either across this Chamber or in any other way, and we hope that his temporary sojourn abroad may restore him to health, and that we may one day or another see him again among us. He may rest assured that his presence in this Chamber will always be grateful to the Senators who regard him so highly.

Now, before I proceed to make any remarks on the speech which His Excellency's advisers have provided for us, I wish to offer my congratulations to the mover and the seconder of the resolution. They are gentlemen of very considerable experience, both of them having enjoyed seats in another branch of Parliament. They are familiar with the great public questions which come before Parliament and we hope to avail ourselves of the judgment and the experience that they no doubt will be enabled to bring to the discussion of the various questions that may come before us. The hon. mover of the resolution asked for the forbearance of this House as he was a new member. This House is always glad to extend a cordial welcome and its forbearance to young members, but my hon. friend can scarcely con-

sider himself a novice at parliamentary work, having occupied a seat in the other branch of the legislature for some considerable time, and being familiar with the various questions before Parliament. He has given us ample proof of his skill in discussing the various questions from his standpoint. I was rather surprised, indeed astonished, at the manner in which my hon. friend criticized the people of this country who were so pessimistic as to see nothing but misery, sorrow and misfortune. I cannot exactly follow him in what he says. He tells us that there is a very despondent set in this country who can see nothing good in it. I do not agree with the hon. gentleman at all; I do not think the hon. gentleman's constituents agree with him either. I think he had rather an apt illustration that the policy of the Government was not satisfactory to the people of this country at the last general election and the object lesson he received in the county of Welland ought to have been a warning to the hon. gentleman that the people of this country do not approve of the fiscal policy pursued by the Administration and that they do not regard this country as having prospered to the extent to which it ought to have prospered. The hon. gentleman is respected and beloved in his own constituency; he is universally regarded there as a man who is worthy of the highest position, and the hon. gentleman's county is one of the garden spots of Ontario, the county of Welland, one of the finest places on the globe. I question if there are many places on the face of the earth with superior attractions, and yet why was it that so many people fled from that fair county, diminishing its population between the years 1881 and 1891 by the enormous number of 1,000 persons? All the figures, statistics of life insurance companies, fire risks and all the other figures which he quoted—which I do not propose to follow—cannot take the place of the explanation which was due from the hon. gentleman of the fact that the population of that great county was reduced in the ten years by over 1,000. That is a fact that cannot be got over. It not only does not hold its own, but the people fled. Why should they flee from one of the finest pieces of land on this globe? There must be something in it. People do not get dissatisfied with their homes, do not depart from the early associations of their lives except for some grave cause. They love