

in the fore front of the great philanthropists of the age.

Thus in the death of Lord Strathcona Canada has lost its greatest pioneer and empire builder, a great diplomat, its most beneficent giver, its most picturesque figure, a man giving Canada more prominence than any other, and whose name for generations to come will occupy the largest space of any of its sons on the historic page.

As evidence of our esteem and regard and our regrets as a Senate I therefore move the adjournment of the House until tomorrow.

Hon. Sir GEORGE ROSS (Middlesex)—In common with the leader of the Government, I regret sincerely the occasion that has led to the adjournment. Evidently one of Canada's greatest men has fallen by the way. In such cases we usually say that we stand in the shadow of a great career; today we do not stand in the shadow, but in the luminous light of the greatest career of any Canadian with which most of us have been acquainted. I fully concur in what the hon. leader has said as to the various qualities which distinguished Lord Strathcona. First in my mind stands pre-eminently the resolute purpose which he showed from his early history, down to his latest hour. It required a resolute will in a young man of eighteen years of age to leave the sweet home associations of his native land, and embark on a career not very full of promise, not very bright in its early stages, and spend in obscurity and in loneliness thirteen years amidst the wildest parts of this great Dominion. Then, when transferred to the western district, the prairies boundless and uninhabited, he still showed that resolute purpose in grappling with the difficulties which pertained to his position, and in dealing between those with whom he associated and the great company he represented, in a manner to advance the interests of both. He has passed through difficulties that would have, perhaps, benumbed the strongest purposes of ordinary men. The most notable was the Riel rebellion of 1869. Few can tell how much we owe to Lord Strathcona during that troublous period in our history. The whole West was aflame: the integrity of the Government of Canada was at stake; he was confronted with violent, uneducated half-breeds, the greater part of them, who knew not what law, or order, or good government, was after British methods. In the face of danger to

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED.

his life, in the face of the greatest difficulty, he met those who were at variance with the British Government and hostile to the institutions which we are endeavouring to transplant to that distant country, and courageously fought his way through, in all instances, as far as was possible, defending the British flag; and in all instances, as far as it was practicable, endeavouring to reconcile those people to a condition of things which they know now, and which they have known long ago, was much better for them than the condition in which they existed prior to that time. To achieve what he has achieved in that respect would be enough to embalm his memory in the history of all Canadians.

I agree with what my hon. friend has said, that Lord Strathcona was a great diplomat. He was the Commissioner of the Dominion of Canada to negotiate terms of peace and amity. In that he succeeded, and to that we owe the peaceable condition, some forty years ago, in which that country was found after his administration of it. He was also a resolute man financially. As my hon. friend has said, he was associated with that great Canadian, J. J. Hill, in opening up that northern country to settlement and to civilization. He invested what money he had to spare in extending the Northern Pacific and later when the Canadian Pacific was passing through that trying crisis in its history, in 1883 and 1884, he, along with some other of his Canadian associates, stood facing what appeared to be absolute bankruptcy, financial ruin to all of them, and so guided and advised the Government of the day, that the road was enabled to accomplish the necessary financial arrangements. He had also the honour of driving the last spike which connected the east and west, and opened up the prairies from Winnipeg through to the Rocky Mountains.

A man less resolute than he perhaps would have succumbed to the difficulties of the occasion, greatly to the loss of Canada, and greatly to the retarding of its development. I might say, too, that I believe he was a resolute man politically. I had the honour of being in the House with him for a number of years. I first met him there at my first session, in 1873. He was, then, in accord with the party in power, and in sympathy with its members, I believe, in all their political aspirations and in their efforts to develop the country. He found it necessary, as he thought, to abandon his political associations and ally himself with the party then in opposition. Every hon. gentleman knows that it requires a