

House of Commons Debates

FOURTH SESSION—SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

SPEECH

OF

SIR JAMES A. GRANT, M.P.

ON

THE ADDRESS

OTTAWA, FRIDAY, 16TH MARCH, 1894

98/65

Sir JAMES GRANT. Mr. Speaker, within the year that has just passed two very important events have transpired. We have parted with one representative of Her Majesty, and we have received the nobleman who recently arrived amongst us and is the present representative of Her Majesty in this Dominion. During the sojourn of Lord Derby and Lady Derby in this country they endeared themselves to the people, and he, by his wise judgment and discretion, by his long practical experience as a legislator and his occupancy of important positions in the Government of Great Britain, so discharged the serious responsibility of presiding over the destinies of this great Dominion as to reflect great credit on himself and to carry back to England the warmest possible regards of the people of this country. As for Lady Derby, she endeared herself to everyone with whom she came in contact. She took an active interest in our people, in our institutions, in everything that tended to the welfare of our people, and in leaving Canada she left behind her tangible proof of the work she was desirous of accomplishing, the establishment of an institution in the capital of the Dominion known as the "Stanley Institute," which is a credit to her name and her reputation. The wish of the people of this country is that in leaving Canada they may be long spared to enjoy the

ease and affluence which have recently descended to them, and in doing so I feel satisfied that throughout the length and breadth of Canada there is but one wish that they may be long spared to undertake works of practical usefulness which await them in the great centres of England. We have also received here within a very short time a nobleman and lady, Lord and Lady Aberdeen, whose names went before them, inasmuch as they lived in Canada for a short time, and although that period itself was extremely short, still they endeared themselves to the people with whom they came specially in contact in that Garden of Eden, as I might call it, Hamilton, one of the cities of Ontario, so that when they left Canada there was a unanimous wish felt among the people throughout the country that we might be so extremely fortunate as to have them here as representing Her Majesty. "The Grand Old Man," whom I am sorry to say is now languishing from sickness, and has been obliged to leave the leadership of that great party over which he presided, in his judgment and discretion selected to come to Canada a nobleman who was Viceroy of Ireland, and who so distinguished himself in that position as to endear himself to every Irishman in that grand old emerald Isle, where to-day the shamrock grows so sweetly and luxuriantly.