

to restore the policy which prevailed before 1882. Although this is a measure which concerns the House of Commons, it is nevertheless most desirable that a principle long ago accepted as the basis of representation in the Parliament of the United Kingdom, and agreed to here prior to 1882, shall be recognized, in order that a permanent basis for representation may be had.

There will no doubt be many other measures of practical importance submitted for the consideration of the Parliament during the present session, and may I not say in advance that this House, in the consideration of these questions, will be content to exercise that authority which constitutional usage has marked out as the legitimate sphere of its operation, and within which, it alone can exercise a legitimate and beneficial influence upon public affairs. I have now the honour to second the motion for the adoption of the address.

Hcn. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Fortunately the speech is not of a character which requires much deliberation or a lengthened debate. Before entering on any of the subjects which are presented for our consideration, I may be permitted to congratulate my hon. friend (Mr. Kerr) whom I have known for a great many years, on the temperate manner in which he has moved the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. It is what I would have expected from him; and in addition to that, it has been done in language with which no possible fault can be found. That it has been tinged by, shall I say political prejudice—perhaps I had better say political opinions, which I know he has held so many years—is beyond a doubt. I was forcibly reminded, in listening to his remarks upon some of the topics which he discussed, of that sentence uttered by Tallyrand, that language was given to men to conceal their thoughts. This was more particularly impressed upon my mind when I heard his remarks in reference to the vote upon the Plebiscite; knowing, as I do, that he has been not only a strong advocate of temperance, but what some people would call a fanatical prohibitionist. He has been a prohibitionist and temperance man all his life. However, considering the peculiar position in which he is placed, the difficulty that he had in sustaining the action of the government after the vote which had been

taken, I think I may say candidly, that he performed his duty admirably, that is, by complimenting the people upon an opportunity having been presented to them to consider the question and vote upon it; but he took very good care not to express any opinion upon the action which the government has indicated, both by letter and in the interviews which have taken place for their future course. However, I shall, when I reach that point, refer to it at some greater length. I must, with my hon. friends who moved and seconded the address, congratulate the country on the selection which has been made of a Governor General. Lord Melgund, as we knew him when in Canada, took a very deep interest in the prosperity of the country. He showed his devotion to Queen and country by offering his services at a time when his life was placed in jeopardy, and I have no doubt that as Governor General he will perform his duties to his country in the same way as he performed his duties as a private citizen and soldier, and I hope with my hon. friend that he may long live to enjoy, not only the position which he holds now, but to enjoy life and prosperity for many years to come. That the country is at present prosperous is beyond a doubt. No one denies it, and no one feels more gratified at that fact than Her Majesty's loyal opposition. I may with propriety add that if the forebodings which my hon. friend indicated existed in the minds of the people prior to the accession to power of the present government, have not been fulfilled, it is because from the Premier down to the humblest member of his cabinet, they have not fulfilled a single promise that they made the people during the election and for years previous to it. Had the promises which had been made, had the pledges which had been given to the people that they were going to rout out every vestige of that, to them, hated policy of protection, then that prosperity to which my hon. friend has drawn attention and the manufacturing industries, which are now in a flourishing condition, would not be in existence to-day. There were one or two industries which were struck violently in the tariff by placing them on the free list, and those industries have gone out of existence. They have not only gone out of existence, but the prices which were paid for the articles which were formerly manufactured by them in Canada and which went