

## Second Annual Banquet of the Interior Department.

The second annual banquet of the Department of the Interior, which was held in the House of Commons restaurant on the evening of Tuesday, Nov. 15, will long be remembered as a most enjoyable function,—successful from whatever viewpoint it may be considered, and serving as a model for similar events in the future. The menu was dainty and well-served, the speeches were short and apropos, the songs were tuneful and stirring, the recitations and stories were enthusing and racy. Above all, the company was fraternal and jovial, and if appearances count for aught, every participant without exception had a jolly good time and went home feeling that he had spent a delightful and memorable evening.

In the absence of Mr. W. W. Cory, the Deputy Minister of the Department, who sent a letter of sincere regret at his inability to be present, the chair was most acceptably filled by Mr. J. A. Côté, Assistant Deputy Minister, who proved an ideal presiding officer and toastmaster, and to whose tact and good judgment very much of the success of the evening may be attributed. The guests of the evening, seated right and left of the chair, were Hon. Frank Oliver, Minister of the Interior; Mr. Ald. A. E. Caron, vice-president of the Civil Service Association; Mr. G. S. Hutchinson, president of the Civil Service Club; and Mr. R. H. Coats. The balance of the seats at the head table were occupied by the chief clerks in charge of the various branches.

The affairs of each individual diner's department of the interior having been satisfactorily adjusted, the post prandial proceedings were introduced with the usual loyal toast, which was enthusiastically honored by the men who are charged with the care and administration of one of the richest and most im-

portant of His Majesty's overseas domains. Then came the toast to "Our Minister," the announcement of which was the signal for a most cordial outburst of enthusiasm, the demonstration being renewed when Hon. Frank Oliver rose to reply. The Minister spoke in a particularly happy vein, expressing in terms of most unmistakable sincerity his pleasure at being given the opportunity to meet and become acquainted with so many of his fellow-workers in the service of their common country. He had often thought, he said, that the work of their Department was of an exceptionally interesting character. To watch the development of the illimitable resources of their glorious Dominion, to note the scores of new towns and cities, the thousands of new homes, the hundreds of thousands of happy and prosperous settlers following that development, and to realize that in this greatest example in history of nation-building each one of them was an active participator, whose individual effort was doing its part in that development,—all this could not fail to enthuse the most matter-of-fact, and give a fillip to daily work and endeavour. Unparalleled development had marked the recent years of Canada's history, and unparalleled growth had necessarily followed in the work of the Department of the Interior,—he was pleased and proud to bear testimony to the energy and faithfulness with which those to whom that work had been entrusted were carrying out their obligations. It was their duty,—his own as much as that of the humblest clerk,—to give the country and every citizen having business with them a square deal, and he believed they were giving it. It was equally his desire to give every clerk in his Department a square deal, and though it would inevitably happen at times that some might