

great should that undertaking come his way any of these days. In the meantime, however, apart from all political questions we desire to wish our right hon. friend, as a very distinguished Canadian fellow citizen and colleague of ours in this House and as a personal friend of all, although the political foe of some, very many happy returns of the day which he has just celebrated.

Right Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER (Prime Minister). I am more touched than words can express by the very kind remarks which my hon. friend has been pleased to address to me on the occasion of my 69th birthday. Some newspapers have said it was my 70th, and this reminds me of a mistake which I made when offering congratulations to the Hon. Sir Charles Tupper at a time when he was occupying the position I am now holding. On that occasion I added one year to his record, and Sir Charles drew my attention to it. At my age, he said, every year counts, and I do not want one more added to the number. It is true on one occasion I did express the wish—and it is a wish which, although I expressed it but once, I have felt many times—that I would fain be again at the head of the opposition, and I think it will be generally admitted that there is more fun being in opposition than in office. But as it is in human nature to want what we have not got, I can equally well understand my hon. friend, though he is so well fitted for the position he now holds, wanting to exchange it for a similar one on the opposite side. In my case, however, there is an almost invincible objection to my going back to the rank which I formerly occupied and which my hon. friend now adorns, and that objection is that, up to the present, the will of the Canadian people is strongly opposed to any such change. Only for that objection I would gladly go back to my former position. On the occasion to which my hon. friend refers, I said also that when a man had reached the age of 69 it was folly in him to make any plans for the future, and I do not suppose it will ever be my privilege to sit again on the other side and occupy the seat of my hon. friend and again share in the pleasure enjoyed on that side.

When I leave my present seat, I suppose I shall go back to private life, and I am glad to say that if I have political opponents, I have at least no personal enemies and my hon. friend was kind enough to say so. When I do retire from the position I now occupy I shall only be too glad to go back to private life, if it should please Providence to let me enjoy something like a rest which I have not had for many years.

GENERAL FRENCH'S REPORT.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Before the orders of the day are called, I would like to know whether the report of General French, will

be laid on the table, with regard to our militia?

Hon. Sir FREDERICK BORDEN (Minister Militia). It is being printed. I hoped to have had it to-day, but it will be laid on the table without delay.

THE EXTRADITION OF FEDORENKO.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I would ask whether or not the government propose to make any statement with regard to the extradition proceedings in the Fedorenko case?

Hon. A. B. AYLESWORTH (Minister of Justice). I have very little knowledge of the proceedings referred to except such as is to be gathered from the newspapers, but I may say that I have received a considerable number of communications on the subject from different parts of Canada. It is a matter of official knowledge that, in accordance with the provisions of the Extradition Act, the learned Chief Justice of the King's Bench in Manitoba made his report to me upon the occasion of his committing the prisoner for extradition, but since that report has been received I have had no further knowledge of what has taken place in connection with the case except what I have derived from the sources to which I have alluded. I understand that the order made by the Chief Justice for commitment is the subject at present of either an appeal to the proper Appellate Court or that the decision of the Chief Justice is being reviewed upon application for habeas corpus. Until the proceedings in the courts have reached their termination no copy of the evidence would be sent the Department of Justice and none has yet come, so that I am not acquainted, by means of a perusal of the evidence, with the circumstances of the case. I can only say that, in these circumstances, there is no answer I can make except that should the case come before me it will certainly have the most careful consideration I can give it.

ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

Mr. HAL. B. MCGIVERIN (Ottawa City), moved:

That a humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General, in reply to the speech from the Throne.

He said: Mr. Speaker, this is the first time, I believe, since confederation that the honour of moving the address to His Excellency in reply to the speech from the Throne has devolved upon a member from the City of Ottawa, and as one of the representatives of that electoral district, I ask the indulgence of the House in rising to perform that duty. Allow me, Sir, to thank the right hon. the Prime Minister for the honour which he has thus bestowed upon