

ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

The House proceeded to the consideration of His Excellency's Speech at the opening of the Session.

Mr. TUPPER. In rising to move that a humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to the Speech delivered from the Throne, on Friday last, I rejoice greatly that I have the good fortune and the high privilege to do so at so important a period in the history of my country. I rejoice also that the time for me to move the answer to the Address has occurred when so successful a period in the history of the country has been reached. A little over fifteen years ago four British Provinces began a venture which over one hundred years ago thirteen British Colonies attempted, and those four Provinces formed a Union called Confederation. Since that time great as has been the advancement of the United States, extraordinary as has been the progress of that country, I do not hesitate to say that the progress and advancement of the British Confederation on this side of the Atlantic has been far greater in proportion than even the wonderful advancement of the country to the south of us. We can recognize with pride the fact that while during those hundred years the revenue of the American Union rose to \$29,000,000 in the seventy-first year of its existence, the revenue of this country rose, in the fifteen years just closed, from \$15,000,000 to \$29,000,000. We have to recognize at the same time the fact that in the year 1800 the population of the American Union was as large as that of Canada to-day. Not only has our advancement been greater in regard to the revenue of the country, but I am happy to know that the increase of the population of this country has been far greater in proportion. When the Union of the Provinces was consummated, when Confederation became a settled fact, the strides that were made in the march of union and progress were such as to command the admiration of the world. But there came a pause, which we all remember, in the march of advancement. There came a time when depression seemed to linger in this country, and to predict a fate which no advocate of the Union had anticipated. At that time, it will be remembered, that one of the great parties of this country rose and said that it was confident it could restore the successful state of affairs that had been inaugurated at the date of the Union. That party then was in Opposition to the Government of the day, and while the Government had professed that it was unable, and that this party was unable to retrieve the glory and success which had been lost for a time, the Liberal-Conservative party claimed that, by a fiscal policy different from the policy which was then in force, prosperity could be restored to this country, and Canada enabled to go on advancing as before. Those were the promises made by that party, when in Opposition, and when the opportunity occurred in September, 1878, the people of this country, from one end to the other, by no uncertain verdict, declared in favor of the policy announced by the Liberal-Conservative party while in Opposition. That party acceded to office at a time when everything looked gloomy, in regard to the prospects of this country; but we all can rejoice on both sides of the House, that from the day they took office everything in the country appeared to improve. One party in this House contends, I believe at the present moment, that the prosperity which has returned since the advent of the Liberal-Conservative party to power is due not to the changed fiscal policy of the country—not to the changed railway policy of the country—but has occurred in spite of both those policies. On the present occasion I have not the desire, nor would it be a fitting opportunity, to discuss that question, but I can join with everyone in this House and in the country in expressing my gratification and delight that since the fiscal policy of the

country was changed prosperity has returned to Canada to such an extent that no one can doubt the fact. We all remember that, after the changed policy had been on trial for four years, the Government went to the people of the country six months ago for an endorsement of that policy, and to ascertain whether they had faithfully kept their trust—whether they deserved a renewal of the confidence which had been reposed in them a few years ago. The result was one which is testified by the large majority which the Government has in this House. In the present Parliament we have the satisfaction of knowing that no matter what may be the different views of the two great parties of this country at the present day, the mass of the people of Canada attribute a great measure of the prosperity they are enjoying to the successful and vigorous administration of their affairs by the Government of the day. We had an expression of pleasure by the Governor General when he came down to this House that prosperity and peace exist in the land; but not only have we risen in the scale as regards our material progress, but we find that the press on the other side of the Atlantic is alive to-day to the marvellous growth and development of this part of the British Empire. We have passed from the colonial stage and have become an integral part of the British Empire; and not long ago the *London Daily Telegraph* alluded to this country as "the Greater Britain." Allusion has been made to the extended trip which was taken by the Governor General of the Dominion; and we all have lively and pleasant recollections of the tour made by his eminent predecessor. None of us, if we are at all Canadian in spirit, can ever forget the proclamation that his eminent predecessor made of the vast wealth and treasures of the North-West; and following up that happy example the present Governor General has also been anxious to testify, from personal knowledge, to the great resources which the Dominion of Canada to-day possesses. I believe, therefore, that that is no unimportant factor in the work of immigration to which this Government has paid so much and so successful attention. I believe the extended travels of the distinguished gentleman who presides over the counsels of this country, will do a great deal more in that direction than could be done by ordinary immigration agents in the service of the Government. The general question of immigration is one which has assumed, and is assuming, a position of great importance in the affairs of this country. A little over forty years ago the people of Great Britain were startled by the fact that, in the year 1841, no less than 106,000 subjects of Queen Victoria had left the British Isles, not only for the colonies but for the United States of America. This announcement caused, at that time, great comment in England. It was considered that never, from the time the Goths and Huns had overrun the Roman Empire, had such an emigration taken place from any country. To-day, Mr. Speaker, we are in the happy position of knowing that instead of 106,000 men leaving our shores for any such bellicose purpose, over 113,000 men, women and children have come into this Dominion in one year to swell its population and to aid it in the march of progress. The manner in which the Department of Agriculture has been administered must command the admiration of our people. All the immense resources that this country can boast of would be valueless without the men and without the money to make them marketable; and therefore in viewing the extraordinary immigration which has been brought about, we are not alone to thank Providence and the National Policy, but we must extend a meed of that praise to the successful administrator of the Department of Agriculture, which is charged with the regulation and control of immigration affairs. Not only has the largest number of immigrants ever known in a single year been brought in, but the Department has been so successfully managed that the *per capita* cost of pro-