

SENATE.

OTTAWA, Monday, March 12, 1906.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock,

Prayers and routine proceedings.

NEW SENATOR.

The following newly appointed Senator was introduced;

Hon. L. Geo. DeVeber, of Lethbridge, Alberta.

THE ADDRESS.

MOTION.

The order of the day being called:

Consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's speech on the opening of the second session of the Tenth Parliament.

Hon. Mr. DEVEBER—In addressing you for the first time I wish to make acknowledgment of the very great compliment which has been paid to me as a resident of western Canada in allotting to me the task which now falls to me. I can assure you it is a very considerable undertaking to me. And in commencing my remarks I would ask that the House be lenient. I must confess to a certain indefinable feeling, the chief symptoms of which are fear, apprehension and timidity; and were some one other than myself the subject, I do not think I would have very much difficulty in diagnosing the case. I would probably term it a mild case of nervous prostration, easily recoverable as soon as the exciting cause was removed. I trust that the exciting cause in my case will be removed in a very short time. As a remedy, in the meantime I have the knowledge that this House, always kindly, welcomes any new man seeking entrance to its mysteries. I also have the knowledge that for the first day at least a new member can count upon an unusual degree of kindness, courtesy and consideration. The press, following out their usual custom of writing up everybody who has the honour to be summoned to this House, has given you my record. You probably have seen in it that for the last 25 years of my life I have lived in the west—the very far west—under the shadow of the Rockies. During that time I have visited the east but once, so if my language savors of westernism, if everything that I touch upon is viewed from the standpoint of the

west, I hope I may stand excused, and that you will grant me your indulgence.

His Excellency, in his gracious speech from the Throne, has alluded to the severe bereavement which Queen Alexandra has sustained, through the death of her father, the King of Denmark. Death always carries sorrow in its train. We do not perhaps feel it so acutely unless it is brought home to us closely by the death of some one near and dear to us. In this case the loss is sustained by one who is known throughout the empire for her warm sympathy in distress, her kindly assistance and her womanly feeling towards those who may be suffering. In the present instance she is herself the sufferer. His Excellency states that he is satisfied that the warm sympathy of the people of Canada will be readily extended to her Majesty. Speaking for this House, I think I may safely speak for the Dominion at large—His Excellency may rest assured that the hearts of all Canadians have already gone out in a wave of sympathy in connection with the loss sustained by our beloved Queen.

His Excellency goes on to say—

It afforded me much pleasure as the representative of His Majesty to take part in the inauguration of the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan as constituent members of the confederation. The universal rejoicing on the assumption of provincial autonomy everywhere visible was gratifying to witness, and I venture to say that in no part of the world could a more contented population be found. The universal sentiment was one of abounding confidence in the future.

I can say, hon. gentlemen, that the pleasure afforded His Excellency was nothing to that experienced by the people of the territories. While speaking for myself, I can also safely say that I am voicing the feelings of the people of my own province, Alberta. As an evidence of this I have only to refer you to the emphatic way in which the territories last fall gave voice to their satisfaction. That the financial terms were considered generous, and that even the settlement of the very much discussed school question was not thought little of by the people of my province was amply demonstrated on that occasion; and their emphatic answer should be sufficient to convince every one, even the most sceptical, that the Autonomy Bill in its entirety was perfectly satisfactory to the people most concerned, namely, the residents of the ter-