

and that being the case, we ought to have permanency and stability in our tariff. But on the other hand, we ought also to be ready, when new conditions arise, to make any further changes which may be necessary.

Allow me to illustrate what I mean in that respect. Take, for instance, the duty on lumber. We know that the tariff was revised last session, but American lumber is admitted to this country still as it was before, free of duty, while Canadian lumber which was formerly admitted into the United States free of duty, is now dutiable. In the discussion that went on it was impossible to regard the log and the lumber duties otherwise than as interdependent and affecting one another, and it is most reasonable that the legislation of the United States on this subject of the lumber duties should be regarded in deciding upon the legislation upon that subject for Canada. This question has been before the public for a considerable number of years. At present, while American lumber comes free into Canada, there is a duty of \$2 per thousand on lumber going into the United States. Thus a new condition has arisen, and, while I do not say that a duty should be imposed upon American lumber coming into this country, I do say that, new conditions having arisen, the Government will be bound seriously to consider the question in the light of those new conditions and decide the problems that are thus raised so as to promote the best interests of the country at large.

I am very glad to find a reference in the Speech from the Throne to the fact that the Government has abolished, so far as Government contracts are concerned, the sweating system. This shows that this Government, after all, is alive to the interests of all classes of the people and seeks to do what is best for all. I am glad to see, also, that there is some reference in the Speech to the questions of superannuation, the Franchise Act and the plebiscite. These are a part of the pledges of the Liberal Government and the Liberal party and I am glad to find them mentioned in the Speech of His Excellency because it is an indication that the Government intend to redeem their pledges with regard to these important questions.

It is not my intention to take up the time of the House much longer. I look to the future of this country with great confidence. There was never a time in our history when the people were so confident of the future of the country as they are now. It is a great satisfaction to me; it is a great satisfaction, I am sure, to the Liberal party and to the country at large to find that the prognostications of our friends of the Opposition as to what would befall the country if the Liberals came into power have not been realized. We know that confidence reigns throughout the land, and

that confidence is a prime cause of increase of business. And so we look forward with hope and confidence to the development of the latent resources of the country to the greatest extent possible. And with such an immense territory, with such an energetic people and with such an efficient Government we may expect great things. We should be proud that we are living under such a free system of government and under such good institutions as we enjoy. I know of no country under the sun in which I would rather live than in this beloved Canada of ours.

Mr. GAUVREAU. (Translation.) In rising to second the Address to be presented to His Excellency in reply to the Speech from the Throne, I must confess, at the outset, that when asked by the leader of this House to accept that very honourable task, I did somewhat hesitate to assume the onerous responsibility of the duty devolving on me; and the more so, as in rising for the first time in this House, to address the representatives of the people in the Commons of Canada, methinks I hear, Mr. Speaker, a warning voice issuing from the seat you occupy, or rather I fancy I hear still echoing through this House the voices of former speakers who have achieved such brilliant oratorical triumphs under similar circumstances; and, although deeply conscious of my own inability, I crave the indulgence of all members on both sides of the House.

I know, Mr. Speaker, that there is a two-fold obligation involved here: that of seconding the Address which now devolves on me, and that of listening to the few remarks I am about to make, a task which devolves on you. I shall perform my task to the best of the ability which divine Providence has imparted to me; and, as to the hon. gentlemen on both sides of the House, the plaudits which have just greeted me, as also the experience of the past, warrant me in believing that they will hear me throughout with that kind indulgence they have unfailingly bestowed on those who, like me, have craved the same, under similar circumstances.

The hon. member for Toronto Centre (Mr. Bertram), who has just taken his seat, has so exhaustively covered the ground that there remains but a few ears of corn for me to glean in the otherwise extensive field of the Speech from the Throne, and at the risk of repeating more or less correctly in French what the hon. gentleman has so well said in English, I will perform my task to the end, within the limited space of time allotted to me. The year 1897, that has just closed, will be recorded in history as one pregnant with the most memorable events of this latter part of the nineteenth century. Were history to record nothing but the celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of Her Majesty's reign, the majestic propor-