

THE SENATE.

THURSDAY, November 28, 1912.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

Prayers and Routine Proceedings.

THE ADDRESS.

DEBATE CONTINUED.

The order of the day being called:

Further consideration of His Royal Highness the Governor General's speech on the occasion of the opening of the second Session of the Twelfth Parliament, and of the motion of the Hon. Mr. Daniel, seconded by the Hon. Mr. Pope, that an humble address be presented to His Royal Highness the Governor General in answer thereto.—(Hon. Mr. Roche.)

Hon. Mr. ROCHE—My reasons for extending the debate are that speech has been delivered by His Royal Highness, the representative of the Sovereign, that it has evidently occupied the attention of the Cabinet for some time in its preparation, and that it was presented by gentlemen who have reflected credit upon themselves and upon the Senate in the presentation of the facts, and that the leader of the government in the House has been pleased to emphasize and reinforce the various ingredients and statements previously referred to in the speeches of the eloquent mover and seconder of the address in reply to the speech. It appears to me on looking at the speech that it is a raise that it formerly had much larger dimensions, but that it has been cut down in order to avoid the recount of certain exigencies which have occurred and to which, perhaps, reference might have been more formally made. I do not know exactly what part each member of the Cabinet had in the reduction of the dimensions of the speech, nor have I been informed where the pruning knife of the leader of the House was put in, but evidently to all of those who are acquainted with the preparation of the speech from the Throne there are marks that it was originally of far greater dimensions than it is at present.

I join in the congratulations, which have been expressed all round in the tour which was made by His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught. He had the leisure and he had the inclination to visit

Hon. Mr. ROCHE.

various portions of the country. Usually colonial governors have not had the advantage of familiar intercourse with the people. They were frequently surrounded by a coterie of individuals who used them; and who hedged them in and about with their personalities and their views. They frequently represented that they were the monopolists of loyalty and public virtue, and that after them any who were entitled to either emoluments or honours were those who belonged to their own families, or the immediate circle of their acquaintance. Happily the present Governor General has the faculty of privately interviewing various kinds of people, making himself at home with them and learning their sentiments. He laid aside formality and conversed with them as freely as friend converses with friend, and he was able thus to gather the true sentiments of the various classes of people and also to know from personal intercourse that the reports sent over to the English newspapers, and that the efforts of certain jingo individuals who were sent out from the financial centres of England to visit Canada and bring back the report that the people were in harmony with the propaganda and designs of the Conservative party in England, are not at all justified when the genuine sentiments of the people were expressed to him in person, and that is an advantage we have acquired from the visit of the Governor General. I hope that he will continue his own observation, that he will know the people and see them with his own eyes. He understands the resources of the people, their employments, their occupations, and their hopes and fears, and I believe he is fitted by intention, mental qualification and disposition, to be the best Governor General we have ever had the honour of serving under.

In the course of the very excellent speech delivered by the hon. gentleman from St. John (Hon. Mr. Daniel) he used some statistics to present a resume of the business transactions, the trade and commerce of the country, and to one or two of those I beg briefly to refer, because they present in an epitomized form the results of the labours of the people during the past year. My hon. friend announced—and I think his figures are correct—that the total trade