

Regina standing up on her fertile plain, to touch glasses with this young city, born under some well-omened star, this crown of pride of the immeasurable wheat fields, mixed farms, ranches, mid which, with slow but picturesque and fertilizing power the Assiniboine flows,

"Where by mute margins voiceless waters creep."

giving you here in one of its fairest curves, for salubrity and beauty and all that can make up the topography of civic and domestic attractiveness, a site which may with confident justifiable pride challenge successful or at least over-topping rivalry. (Loud cheers.)

I have heard some objections to my honorable friend and the charge in one case is undoubtedly true. I know him well and I am about to give him away. He has been charged with being a stiff Conservative partizan. This is true. How could you expect other than that a Conservative politician coming from "the Wheat City" should prove No. 1 hard? (Great laughter and cheers.) Then his youth has been brought against him. But if I had to find fault with him on the score of age it would be on the ground that he is too old. (laughter.) This is no joke. I mean to say that here in Canada we have grossly, grievously erred by the exclusion of the energy, the hope, the dash, the confidence, the inspiration of youth and youthful minds from our counsels of Government. Talk of youth! Why before the age of the Minister of the Interior men have conquered nations; have wisely ruled great empires; have succeeded in every walk of life. He is past an age at which in all times and all countries men have been held eligible for the highest and most sacred trusts. We take our Parliamentary institutions from England and what do they do there? Mr. Gladstone was a Lord of the Treasury at 25. He has proved himself a very great man; but he was then unproved. At 34 he was president of the Board of Trade. Mr. Pitt was prime minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer at 23. Do you suppose with all his fine abilities he could obtain such a position with us at twice that age? Lord Palmerston, the

greatest foreign minister and the best war minister England ever had was Secretary at war when only 25. He proved to be a great man; but who knew his greatness then? Any way, in a democratic country he would never have been credited with capacity and greatness at that age. Canning having spent his youth in liberal studies and written his poem "The Slavery of Greece"—took office at 26—and at 37 was Minister of Foreign Affairs. Lord Shelbourne was at the head of the Board of Trade at 26. Sir Robert Walpole entered office at 29 and became Secretary at war at 32. Sidney Herbert was only 25 when he entered Sir Robert Peel's first administration; at 31 he was Secretary of Admiralty, at 35 Secretary of War. Fox was only 33 when he became Secretary of State. Sir George Trevelyan when only 30 years of age became a Lord of the Admiralty. Thus out of eight cases that occur to me four held office at 25 or under, and all held the highest offices before forty; in fact seven before 35, and something like half held the highest offices at about 25. Such a thing would be secured in our democratic country to our shame. My honorable friend Mr. Daly spoke of that flag which has braved the battle and the breeze for a thousand years. Yes sir, that flag has been carried in triumph into every sea. There is hardly a country on the globe where under its fluttering inspiration heroes have not fought and fallen and seen the flying foe and raised the British trophy in the midst of the prostrate brave whose right hand was still for every mere. But what carried that flag in triumph round the globe? Was it the aged hand and the aged head? Nay, it was because the young daring heart of England had free play. (cheers.) I don't want to get rid of age. I want to see the wisdom of age and the vigour of youth though in truth the young are often wiser than the old, their thinking being undashed by the doubt and overcaution of advancing years. I want to see the counsel of venerable men married to the hopeful vigour of the young. (cheers.) Therefore I honor Sir John Abbott or Sir John