

the House whom I was taught to reverence years ago, and who are held in high honor by the people for the patriotism and courage and political capacity and eloquence which they have brought to the administration of public affairs and to the influencing of public opinion.

On paragraph 1,

Mr. BLAKE. Upon former occasions similar to this, I have felt it my duty to enter at some little length into a review of the political events and developments of the year, as the year has passed from one Session to the other without any appeal to the people; and the hon. gentleman who leads the Government has more than once objected to the somewhat exhaustive, and, I suppose I may say, to some people, perhaps to the majority of the House, the somewhat exhaustive review which I felt it my duty to make; but the character of the Speech which was read the other day and the character of the Address which we are asked to make in answer to that Speech are both so harmless, so entirely innocuous—there is so very little indeed in them—that I think they may, conjoined with the other circumstances to which I am about to refer, induce me upon this occasion to adopt the suggestion of the hon. gentleman, and to delay for a much shorter period even than I have formerly done our progress to the real business of the Session. I am glad to be able to congratulate the hon. gentlemen who have moved and seconded the answer to the Speech from the Throne on both the manner and the matter of their addresses. They certainly did themselves credit, if for nothing more than this: that there was no word used by them calculated to promote an acrimonious discussion or protracted debate, so that the Speech itself, being of the character to which I referred, and the hon. gentleman who proposed the reply having addressed us in these tones, there is the less need or occasion for engaging in lengthy discussion. Not having had the satisfaction of having met on former occasions these hon. gentlemen or being able to gauge their respective qualities for the discharge of such an important duty, I, of course, was not aware of the special qualifications which they have shown to-day; and, in ignorance of those special qualifications, I confess that I had myself made a forecast of two other hon. gentlemen as perhaps, upon reviewing the situation, the fittest persons to present the case of the Government on this occasion. I refer to the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague), and the hon. member for Queen's, N.B. (Mr. Baird). I quite agree, after having heard these hon. gentlemen, that my view was arrived at in ignorance of those special qualifications which they had for the discharge of the duty. Now, the hon. gentleman adverted in grateful and graceful terms to the happy circumstances that we are asked to day to express at an early stage, what I dare say we shall be asked in some more formal manner at a future time to express, our feelings upon the subject of this being the jubilee year of the Queen, and I was glad to be able to notice that the general sentiments with which they regarded that happy event were such as can be shared by us all. There is no doubt that the British Empire during those fifty years has developed in the most extraordinary manner. To us, who are interested in the development of this particular portion of the Empire, enormous in area if not in population as yet—to us, amongst the most interesting circumstances which are recalled to our mind by the occurrence of this jubilee year, are not our material progress, not our increasing population, not even the conjunction of the various Provinces, but the fact that under the rule of the Queen the principles of self-government, of popular government, may be said to have almost begun and received that high degree of development which they have received within the area of British North America. I do not share, perhaps it is natural that I should not, coming from the Province of Ontario, the sentiments of humiliation with which the hon.

Mr. WELDON (Albert).

member for Albert (Mr. Weldon) seemed to recur to a portion of the events of fifty years ago. I quite agree that there were circumstances which then occurred which had better not have occurred, but I would tell him that amongst the most honored men on both sides of politics in the old Province of Canada, and since the Canadian Confederation was formed, have been found men who were active and prominent in the events to which he looks back with humiliation, and that not least amongst their titles to the sympathy and confidence of their fellow-countrymen in these latter years has been the recollection of the prominent and outspoken, if imprudent and reckless, part which they took in vindication of that which now all acknowledge was the essence of popular liberty. Nor, although that agitation which culminated in unhappy risings in Upper Canada and in Lower Canada in 1837 did not reach the same head in the Provinces from one of which the hon. gentleman comes, can I forget that the man whose name was for many years most loved and most venerated in the whole region of the Maritime Provinces, and whose reputation and power extended even in those old days of difficult communication—of absence of communication—far beyond the Maritime Provinces, and reached the west, was Joseph Howe, who took a prominent and active part in that constitutional agitation which brought Nova Scotia happily not through bloodshed or open insurrection, because it was not necessary, but brought Nova Scotia also to the front in the struggle for responsible government. I rejoice then that we have reached the recognition so long ago of the vital principle of self-government, and that the principle—the exceptions to its operation growing less from year to year—has been from year to year more and more recognized that we do control our own concerns; and the happy condition of loyalty to the British Crown and to the noble lady whose head is surmounted by that Crown to-day is not based merely upon tradition, not merely upon an unreasoning love for the past, but exists because it is her good fortune to have had a reign which has been commensurate with the growth and development in these Provinces of the principle of self-government, because we know that the reign of the Queen is synonymous here with the reign of the people, and therefore it is that in Canada the secure foundation of the Throne lies in the fact that it rests upon the hearts of the Queen's Canadian subjects. There is, however, a blot upon the jubilee year, and it is a blot which deeply affects us, and deeply affects us in a direction to which this Speech refers, and to which the hon. gentlemen have alluded. There is a country, there is a part of the so-called United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in which these principles of self-government and popular government, government according to the well-understood wishes of the people, have not yet been accorded to the citizens of that land; and I am sure that we shall do our duty as loyal subjects to Her Majesty, as promoting to the uttermost the peace and harmony and prosperity of her reign, if we express the opinion upon all suitable occasions that it would be a happy, a providential dispensation if the jubilee year of the Queen should see in all her vast dominions which are fitted for the application of constitutional government that principle of the government by the people, according to its well-understood wishes thoroughly applied. The hon. gentlemen have alluded, as the Speech has alluded, to the condition of the fishery question. Now, with reference to that question, the Government has, during the period which has elapsed since negotiations were opened, continuously invited abstention from discussion on the floor of this House, and I think that there never has been an occasion in which a question of such great and far-reaching consequence to a free people parliamentarily governed, has been prosecuted so long a time without parliamentary ventilation and discussion as this fishery question. I do not intend, in view of the statement