

thanks to Your Excellency for the gracious Speech which Your Excellency has addressed to both House of Parliament.

Hon. Mr. LEGRIS—Translation—If I rise to second the motion made by the hon. gentleman from Rideau (Mr. Frost) which has for its object the presentation of an address in reply to the speech from the Throne, it is not because I feel very sure of myself or well acquainted with the subject; but I wish to profit by the favourable occasion which presents itself to offer my most sincere thanks to the government which has done me the honour to call me to sit here as one of your colleagues. I also owe thanks to you, hon. gentlemen, who, in large numbers, have already welcomed me to this Chamber.

I have cheerfully accepted the task offered me by the hon. Secretary of State (Hon. Mr. Scott) to second this resolution, though recognizing my unfitness to perform it well, because I feel the honour reflected upon the country which honoured me with its confidence in sending me as its representative, during several parliaments, to the legislature of Quebec and also to the House of Commons; because I feel that this honour reflects also on the senatorial division of Repentigny which I now represent, and lastly, on the agricultural class from which I have come, to which I am proud still to belong, and in the midst of whom I hope to remain the balance of my days.

Being invited in this parliamentary circle with a view to work together for the greatest advantage of the people, for the progress and advancement of our country, by legislation as wise as it may be possible for us to pass; and coming from most distant points of our immense territory, from the shores of the Pacific and the Atlantic coast, there may exist, and as a matter of fact I know there exist divergent opinions on the different political questions which arise from day to day, but I believe there will be but one sentiment amongst us as to all which relates to the very great prosperity which prevails to-day in the Dominion.

The past year has been a happy one for Canada. Providence has blessed us with an abundant harvest. Our commerce and our industries have developed prodigiously and are full of promise for the future. Speaking of our manufacturing industries,

Hon. Mr. FROST.

of which some have made gloomy predictions since the advent of the present government to power, predictions made in good faith by many, no doubt, but for political purposes by a greater number; our manufacturing industries, I say, have also seen better days and have shown a development which nobody could have foreseen. We have reached a period at which our local industries should be increased, for we have before us to-day a greatly extended market, a market which commands the activity and demands the co-operation of all citizens of the country. We are called upon to develop the natural resources of Canada; to follow up this prodigious development, we see rising every day new industries; we see capitalists aiding in developing the immense water powers which we possess. All these combined efforts have produced a wealth which nobody, a few years ago, could have foreseen.

I have reason for saying that our local manufactures have progressed rapidly, and in proof of it, hon. gentlemen, I cannot do better than to quote some figures as evidence. In 1896 we exported manufactured products to the value of \$9,000,000 in round figures, and in 1902 our exports had increased to \$18,000,000. Not only have our manufacturers supplied the needs of the country, but the exportation of manufactured goods has doubled in six years.

Casting a rapid glance now on the exportation of our agricultural products, agriculture being as we know the foundation of our great national production, we see the same surprising results. The following I find, in the report prepared by the Minister of Agriculture, for the following products—wheat, flour, pease, hay, cattle, cheese, pork, poultry, eggs and fruit. We exported in 1896 to the value of \$39,000,000 whilst in 1902 the figure reached \$80,000,000. Nothing more is needed, it seems to me, to support my contention when I say that our domestic industries and manufactures have taken an unheard of flight. And to extend a little further my demonstration I need only compare the exportations of the products of Canada during the last six years under the late administration, that is to say, from 1891 to 1896, with the years that have elapsed between 1897 and 1902. For the first period these exports amounted to \$612,000,000 and