

of India, the hope being expressed that Canada would extend aid to alleviate their distress. Turning to the subject of the Toast—"The Governor General," the Mayor said that both His Excellency and Her Excellency the Countess of Aberdeen had endeared themselves to the hearts of the people of Canada by so many acts of kindness and thoughtfulness, that he voiced the sentiment of every Canadian in trusting the day far distant when their connection with this country would be severed.

His Excellency the Governor General responded in his usually genial style, in which wisdom and pleasantry are happily mingled. Alluding to the civic feature of the banquet, he said:

"Well, gentlemen, we have gathered to-night under municipal auspices. I think we are all very ready to appreciate municipal institutions, especially for instance when the form of appreciation before us takes the shape of participation in a sumptuous and agreeable banquet. In such cases it is a positive duty to accept the invitation as a mark of respect to the person from whom it came. I suppose in appreciation of municipal institutions I am afraid there is one form of appreciation that people very often display, that of mere criticism in the shape of drawing attention to what they consider ought to be amended, and what they think could be done if they (the critics) were in authority. But there is a better way of showing appreciation, and that is by taking a practical part in the work. That is the way which our friend the Mayor has adopted. I think we may safely congratulate him upon the prominent part which he was so rapidly able to take in the municipal affairs of this great city in a short period. I think we have now come to the middle point in the two years of his term of office, and though I don't know much of the details of his work, I think we may speak in terms of congratulation of what he has already done. I believe at the outset of his term the Mayor said that, while desirous of filling worthily the duties of the high office to which he was called, the one thing which he put before himself was the unifying and harmonizing of the different elements of interest in the management of public affairs which would enable us to approach them, not in a carping spirit of criticism, but in an effort to improve municipal government as far as we can."

The judgment of the Governor General, that the true way to secure good municipal government is not "carping criticism," but the active participation in its work and responsibilities of the most able and worthy of the citizens, will be long remembered for its timeliness and practical wisdom.

The Hon. A. W. Atwater, Provincial Treasurer, then proposed the health of His Honor the Lieut. Governor, who, in reply, delivered a brilliant speech in French, in which he eulogized the Mayor for bringing together the functionaries of the State and the leading men of the community around the festive board, the example of which he commended to his successors in office. Mr. C. M. Hays, general manager of the Grand Trunk Railway, proposed "The Parliament of Canada," in a brief but thoughtful speech. On rising to respond, the Hon. Wilfrid

Laurier, Premier of Canada, was greeted with most hearty applause, which was renewed again and again as he eloquently alluded to Montreal as a city which "In my estimation is bound to be one of the great cities of the world, a rival to New York, because here is the point where the trade of the East and the West, even of the Western American States, and of Europe, must come to be distributed." He then made a declaration of such great political significance, we give the words as they fell from the lips of the Premier of Canada:—

"It has long been my conviction that the efforts of the Parliament of Canada ought to be directed towards securing for the city of Montreal the trade of the Western States of the American Union, and making the relations of Canada with the States more friendly than at present. But while I am emphatic in stating that the efforts of Parliament should be directed towards getting for the Dominion and for Montreal the trade of the Western States, still I wish to be understood here as standing against the idea that being friendly to the United States means hostility to England. We intend so far as we can to have better trade relations with the neighbor to the south of us; but if it is expected in the United States or anywhere else that the price we shall have to pay means any hostility to England, we shall have none of it. We are a colony, it is true; but it is our boast as Canadians, and I am proud to say it in the presence of Her Majesty's representative here, that we Canadians, though we admit that we are colonials, do not admit that the sun in its course shines on a freer country than Canada. We are colonials because we are free to be a colony. And, speaking as I am to business men, I say we are a colony because we have a feeling of gratitude in our hearts for the great country which has protected our liberties. It is with these sentiments that I would wish to approach the Government of the United States. If it is my privilege to go to the United States to speak of better trade relations between Canada and that country, I will say; 'We come here not as suppliants, not in any hostile spirit to the land to which we owe allegiance, but we come here as free men to talk to free men, and if you will accept a treaty on this basis let us negotiate; but if you expect that we come here to stab the country to which we belong, we tell you that we shall do nothing of the kind.' We will ever be true to our allegiance. I do further believe that when we approach the United States in that spirit, in no cringing spirit, in no other spirit but that of self-respect and dignity, we shall succeed; and if we fail we shall get on by ourselves."

The patriotic ring of the Premier's utterances evoked enthusiastic applause, which will be echoed throughout the Dominion.

The Hon. Sir William Hingston in his genial and witty style proposed "The Quebec Legislature."

The Premier of the Province, the Hon. E. J. Flynn, responded in an admirable speech, which was highly commended and appreciated. In the course of it he said:

"It would be a great day when the same idea existed among Canadian citizens as among those of ancient Rome, when they would consider themselves 'Civis Canadensis,' as the Romans considered them-