

the north. Its priceless fisheries. Its mineral deposits are great elements of national wealth.

I might venture to say that he could have added great elements of national strength. Seward was able to appreciate our opportunities and yet to him the half had not been told. As Canadians we recognize that we have entered upon a new and distinct stage in our history. Our country occupies a distinct place on the map of the world. It is no longer the country of ice palaces or of 'Our Lady of the Snow.' It is recognized as the granary which makes the British empire independent of all foreign nations for its food supplies. Here the world now sees a happy home for millions wheresoever they may come from over the face of the habitable globe. We welcome to our shores all who come in to possess the land, to till the soil, to reap the harvest and to enjoy the benefits, the prosperity and happiness which attend an industrious and thrifty life.

The militia force has rendered great service to Canada, not only as the expression of a healthy national sentiment but in repelling invasions, in suppressing rebellions, and in maintaining order and good government on various occasions, and the part which our Canadian militia took in fighting the battles of the empire in South Africa, brought honour and distinction to themselves, added lustre to the great achievements of British arms, directed attention to and reflected much credit upon Canada in the eyes of the onlooking powers of the world. Any measure calculated to promote the efficiency of the militia is entitled to the most favourable consideration of parliament.

The award defining the boundary between Alaska and Canada and the papers connected with the controversy will receive the consideration which their importance to this country demands, and it is to be hoped that apart from the merits of the differences which are to be found in the conclusions of the arbitrators, the fact that such differences arose may secure for Canada, greater independence of action hereafter in relation to international questions which may arise involving the interests of this country. I beg to move :—

That the following address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General, to offer the humble thanks of this House to His Excellency for the gracious speech which he has been

Hon. Mr. KERR (Toronto).

pleased to make to both Houses of Parliament ; namely :

To His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir Gilbert John Elliot, Earl of Minto and Viscount Melgund of Melgund, County of Forfar, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom, Baron Minto of Minto, County of Roxburgh, in the Peerage of Great Britain, Baronet of Nova Scotia, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, &c., &c., Governor General of Canada.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY :—

We, His Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Senate of Canada in parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Excellency for the gracious speech which Your Excellency has addressed to both Houses of parliament.

Hon. Mr. TESSIER—(In French.) Invited at the last moment to take the place of the Hon. Mr. David, who is confined to his home by sickness, to second this motion, I rise to say a few words, requesting this honourable House to accord me all its indulgence. My colleagues will understand that it is quite natural that I should use my mother tongue, that beautiful French language, the use of which is guaranteed to us by law and by treaty, and which we, the first settlers in this country, love to preserve as an inheritance from our ancestors.

The first paragraph of the speech from the Throne reminds us that we should be animated by a pious sentiment of thankfulness towards Providence for the abundant harvest and the prosperity which reigns throughout the country. This sentiment of gratitude, hon. gentlemen, I am sure we all deeply feel. There is no doubt that the people of Canada are happy, and we rejoice from the bottom of our hearts.

After this tribute to Divine Providence, we discharge an agreeable duty in rendering thanks to the right hon. Premier, who has been charged by the people with the duty of directing our policy, and justice to the Minister of Agriculture, who has practised the axiom, 'God helps those who help themselves,' and whose enlightened and persevering work has enabled his fellow-countrymen to profit largely by the advantageous conditions that nature offers them. Our agriculture has made astonishing progress. The export of butter has increased in an extraordinary manner, and we may say the same also of the export of Canadian cheese. We have found a means of transporting these products, by which they preserve a great