

icy of Canada first, Canada last, and Canada for ever. Those of us who have witnessed the improved conditions in the province by the sea, from which I come, during these latter years, join hands with those who come from the province by the sea on the other side of the continent, where there is a similar absence of a dissenting voice, and unanimously we offer our devotion to the great leader of our party. Mr. Speaker, in this, the first utterance which I have the opportunity of making in this House, I desire to be understood as speaking without prejudice and without partisanship, as speaking with a sincere desire that all of us, whether we come from the east or from the west or from any part of Canada, and whatever our party affiliations are may be animated during the time we sit in this House by a desire to do all we can towards building up this great heritage of ours so that those who come after us may feel that we have done our part in creating those conditions which will enable it to take its rightful place among the greatest nations of the world. Sir, I beg to move that a humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to the speech from the Throne.

Mr. GEORGE PARENT (Montmorency). (Translation.) Mr. Speaker, for so many years past has modesty been the theme in opening such a speech as this, that I am rather at a loss to find some new turn for expressing my own feelings in this regard; and if I glance over those 'humble preliminaries' referred to by the academician whose words I quote incorrectly, it is that I realize my inability to adequately describe my own present state of mind. Fortunately for me, my part consists merely in seconding the proposal made by the hon. member for Pictou. His fine speech is a plea in favour of young men, a plea which should be of especial benefit to me, since it has elicited from amongst you a spirit of indulgence equally flattering to him, though required only as regards myself.

Indeed, you will have to be specially indulgent, if you do not wish to feel too painfully the lack of that power of oratory wielded by my predecessor in this House. For, if, on account of the merits of the policy I defended, and through the efforts of devoted supporters, I succeeded in capturing the county of Montmorency over the Hon. T. C. Casgrain, I did not succeed in wresting from him the secret of his eloquence.

Sir, for the young man who reverently knocks at the door of the temple of politics, desirous of grasping the principles that rule the art of statesmanship, it is only natural that the present condition of our country should appear unexceptionably good, and that not only the future, but the present, as well, should seem bright. Is not Canada, from east to west, washed, as it were, by

a Pactolous, on whose shores untold of prosperity has settled, without there being any sign of approaching trouble?

Of course, we should be thankful to Providence for these benefactions, but have we not the right, as a people, to congratulate ourselves, and is it not also our duty to thank those whose duty it was to make good use of the heavenly treasures and who have so thoroughly fulfilled their task?

That feeling of national pride finds a fit opportunity of asserting itself when the Canadian people is called upon, as it is to-day, to extend a most hearty welcome to the new representative of His Majesty King Edward VII. His Excellency the Governor General has lived in a British colony familiar with all the evils of bloody warfare and still prostrate under its terrible bereavements; while Canada rejoices in offering to Lord Grey the comforting spectacle of a happy people, all sections of which breathe the same spirit of loyalty and devotedness to the British crown, of a people proud and jealous of its freedom, no doubt, but equally proud of a state of dependency heretofore rendered agreeable through the noble spirit of its sovereign. Like his predecessor, Lord Minto, of whose sojourn here we have such a happy remembrance, Lord Grey will live peacefully here. Rideau Hall will be, in the course of his busy life, a place of rest, wherein he may witness the normal though vigorous growth of a nation capable of taking care of itself, but knowing also where to find a protector.

I shall not dilate, Mr. Speaker, over the unequivocal signs of this growth of the Canadian nation. However, as the outcome of the fray, I am the unworthy representative of a county, which not only borders on the St. Lawrence, but partly protrudes, as it were, into its channel. My constituents are largely navigators, and I would be amiss to my duty did I not communicate to the present government the message from Montmorency, a message of gratitude for the efforts made by this government towards improving the navigation of the river through the increase in the number of buoys and lights, and for its noble attempt at establishing winter navigation; a message also of prayer that the government may not stop half way, but that the insurance companies be deprived of all pretext for exacting any unjust extra charge, and that the difficult, responsible and trying conditions under which our sturdy pilots labour be improved. It is admitted, I think, that our industries cannot prosper, nor our trade increase, unless the government give to these questions their constant attention.

Sir, the speech from the Throne announces the conferring of provincial autonomy on the Northwest Territories. That is a very serious departure, which, to my mind, has a two-fold importance.

In itself, it is a question pregnant with consequences, on account of the difficulties which its settlement will give rise to, the