

Lo, before us gleam the camp fires.
 We ourselves must pilgrims be,
 Launch our Mayflower and steer boldly.
 Through the desperate winter's sea.
 Nor attempt the future's portal.
 With the past blood-rusted key."

Now, hon. gentlemen, I have only to invite your attention to the concluding paragraph of His Excellency's speech to this House, and it is this: with confidence he relies upon our doing all we can to promote the prosperity and the happiness of the Canadian people. I am sure that the legislation and the deliberations of this Hs., whatever it presents, will show that so far as this House is concerned, we appreciate our great heritage and we appreciate our solemn duties and so far as in us lies we are bound to perform them. I therefore have great pleasure in moving the address, in reply to His Excellency's gracious speech, as follows:—

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 pleased to make to both Houses of Parliament, namely:—

TO HIS EXCELLENCY the Right Honourable Sir GILBERT JOHN ELLIOT MURRAY-KYNNYMOND, 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, etc., etc., Governor General of Canada.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:—

We, Her 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. THIBAUDEAU—The leader of the Senate being disappointed in respect to the seconder of the address, I have this afternoon, at his solicitation, as I felt it my duty to do, consented to perform that duty, and so hon. gentlemen will not expect from me anything more than a very brief speech.

I am pleased that Her Majesty has sent as Governor General to this country a nobleman with whom the country had previously a favourable acquaintance, and I have no doubt whatever that he will follow the settled practice of our constitutional system in the discharge of the duties of the very high office which Her Majesty has confided to him.

I may, with the mover of this address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, express my pleasure at the great prosperity which has marked the progress of the country since

the accession of the present government to power. The trade of the country has enormously increased, every branch of industry has been stimulated, a strong feeling of self-reliance has grown up amongst the people of Canada of every creed and of every nationality, and I have little doubt that the country has entered upon a career of prosperity hitherto unknown in the Dominion.

We have a large accession to the immigration to Canada. Our immense territories are being rapidly occupied by industrious and peaceful settlers. Many have come from the centre of Europe, and from the confines of Asia, who are a vigorous and hearty people who have been devoted to agriculture in their own country, and who are exactly the kind of settlers that the Dominion requires. We are pleased to see that many who had left Canada for the neighbouring republic, are again returning, and will largely contribute to convert our foreign population, amongst whom they mingle, into real Canadians.

The discovery of rich deposits of gold in British Columbia, and in the Yukon country, has stimulated the immigration of a mining population, who will, by their industry and by the investment of capital, greatly add to the wealth and prosperity of the country. The discovery of gold in the Yukon country—a country most difficult of access—has necessitated a new charge upon the public revenue. It was necessary to establish government institutions there, to provide for the protection of life and property, and to furnish, as far as possible, the means of ingress and egress to the country. This, of course, will necessitate a very considerable additional charge on the revenues of Canada. But it will also add, in even a larger degree, to the resources of the country, out of which the additional expenditure will be met.

The government have found it necessary, in accordance with the long-settled policy of the Liberal party, and with the sanction of the country at the last election, to alter the law in relation to the distribution of seats in the House of Commons, in conformity with the principles laid down by the late Sir John Macdonald in 1872, and then accepted by both parties—that in the establishment of electoral divisions for the return of members to the House of Commons, the county boundaries should be preserved intact. I understand a measure is about to be submitted to give effect to that principle, and