

ourable friend opposite is to be commended for the motion he made a few days ago to postpone the consideration of the Address in Reply until the situation became somewhat clearer and calmer, and when we might deal with it without being suspected in any way of interfering in what was going on in the other House or of doing anything that could be interpreted as an attempt to influence matters in the other House. I do not think that situation has quite cleared up yet, and I and the honourable gentlemen behind me feel that for the present we should not ask for a division of the House on this question, or propose an amendment to the motion. We are inclined to let the motion pass; but, so far as we are concerned, it must pass with the distinct understanding that we do not acquiesce in the statements contained in the Speech from the Throne and that when any of the measures mentioned in it come to this House we will not feel bound to refrain from acting in a perfectly free and independent manner. Taking that position, for the present we suspend and postpone all discussion upon the Speech from the Throne apart from what I have already mentioned. If we were to proceed to discuss it, we would be discussing only general propositions, perhaps in an instructive way to some extent, but at the same time in an academic way; and until we get the specific Bills from the other House, outlining what is proposed with regard to rural credits or the Hudson Bay railway and so on, it is impossible for us to pronounce judgment upon those matters. Therefore we agree to allow this motion to pass without a vote, with the qualification that our action in that respect must have no influence upon the course which we will take with regard to any of those measures.

I think that is practically all I can say to define our position upon the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne.

Hon. R. DANDURAND: Honourable gentlemen, I desire to congratulate the mover (Hon. Mr. Lewis), the seconder (Hon. Mr. Lessard), and the official critic (Hon. W. B. Ross), if I may so call my honourable friend who has just taken his seat, upon the speeches which they have delivered.

I always enjoy listening to a journalist speaking on public affairs. The mover of this Address is a journalist of distinction and of long experience. Not only has he had a brilliant career in the editing of important newspapers, but he has written, among other things, a life of George Brown, for the "Makers of Canada," which is now, and which

Hon. W. B. ROSS,

will more and more become, a standard work dealing with an important part of the political life of Canada. Journalists are particularly well equipped for parliamentary life. They have a large knowledge of matters of public concern; they view events daily from all angles; and, if they were not otherwise apt to do so, the criticisms which they meet daily would familiarize them with the different angles from which a matter can be studied and presented. A journalist must of necessity treat questions concisely, and with logic and clarity. We have just had a very good example of that from the honourable gentleman whom we welcome into this Chamber from the city of Toronto.

The seconder of the motion, who comes to us from Edmonton, has had considerable experience in public affairs, having been a member of the Legislature and of the Executive of his province. He has given us his views as to the requirements of his province, the richness of its soil, and the importance of settling thousands of people upon that soil to make a good living and become prosperous. I am sure we shall benefit from the experience that the honourable gentleman brings to this House and from the knowledge that he possesses of conditions in his own province. His association with the West has been a long one, and his presence here will but add to the brilliancy of the delegation from the Western Provinces that sits in this Chamber.

The Speech from the Throne expresses Canada's regret at the demise of the good Queen Alexandra, the mother of His Majesty the King. I well remember on one occasion passing a day, a brilliant sunny day, in the old city of London, when a flower campaign was taking place in aid of hospital work, a work which was near the heart of Her Majesty. At no other time have I witnessed such a sympathetic atmosphere, such an evidence of the affection of the people for that good Queen. Tents were erected in many centres of London, everybody carried her favorite flower in their buttonhole, and the battle of the flowers in some centres was most interesting; and a very large sum of money was gathered for the hospitals in which Her Majesty was so much interested. I realized on that occasion that she enjoyed the deep affection of her people in London, as well as elsewhere; and from that contact with the population in whose midst she lived, I have retained a great admiration for the woman who could win the hearts of those millions of people at the centre of the British Empire.

My honourable friend has been kind enough to express his congratulations upon the honour