

few observations I leave the answer to the Speech. It is not proposed I believe to offer any suggestions in amendment and probably this Chamber will follow the example set in the other branch of the legislature and allow the Address to go through with as little comment as possible.

HON. MR. POWER—I had hoped that some gentleman on the other side would have said something with respect to this speech after the hon. gentleman from Ottawa sat down, but as no one seems disposed to rise I shall venture to make a few observations. In what the hon. gentleman from Ottawa has said with respect to the present occupant of the Chair, and the gentlemen who preceded him, I cordially concur. I also concur in what he has said with respect to the gentleman who for so many years led this House, and whose absence we all regret; and I trust that the House will take occasion to express in some more emphatic way than by a mere incidental reference in the discussion of this speech, their sense of the loss which the departure of the hon. gentleman who so admirably led the House for so long a period appears to them.

HON. GENTLEMEN—Hear, hear.

HON. MR. POWER—The hon. gentleman from Monck was, as my predecessor has said, too modest altogether. The hon. gentleman perhaps may have felt, being in a new field, just a little of the modesty of a young man; but he is a veteran warrior in political fights. Probably there is hardly a constituency in Western Canada where the elections have been more bitterly and vigorously contested than in the constituency which that gentleman represented for so many years, a constituency which I believe he was almost the only man who could save to his party.

The hon. gentleman who seconded the Address proves that the French-Canadian race does not deteriorate as it goes westward, either in appearance or ability.

Turning to the Speech, I dare say you would all prefer that I should not talk about it; but, having for a certain

time been silent, the occasion of the discussion of the Speech from the Throne gives an opportunity to say things that one perhaps has thought of for a good while. The first paragraph of the Speech says that it is His Excellency's pleasing duty on the opening of a new parliament to congratulate us on the general prosperity of the country and on the prospect of a coming season of peace and progress. I quite sympathise with what the hon. gentleman from Ottawa has said as to the novelty of our being congratulated on the prospect of a coming season of peace, because, as that hon. gentleman has properly said, peace is the normal condition of things here; and I am afraid that, taken with some other expressions in the Address, it may be rather regarded as an indication that the prospects of peace are not quite as good as might be hoped.

As to the general prosperity of the country I have little to say. I do not know what the prosperity of the western portion of the country may be, but I am certainly safe in saying that in the Maritime Provinces, including New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, the people are not in a condition to be congratulated on their prosperity. All those things which are taken as indications of prosperity are absent there. I know that in the city from which I come—and the same thing is true in a great degree of the province, and of the City of St. John and the Province of New Brunswick, the value of real estate, which is a very fair indication of the prosperity of a country or district, has fallen very largely indeed; and the natives of the country who are born and bred there, and who are suited to the country, are leaving the Lower Provinces by hundreds; consequently I do not altogether concur with the hon. gentleman from Monck in raising my voice and asking emigrants from Europe to come to that part of Canada. If we could induce all who are in the Lower Provinces to stay there we should do much better, and I think if the Government would take such steps as would induce the people of the Lower Provinces to remain at home they would act more wisely than in asking people to come into this country from Europe.

HON. MR. SCOTT.