

I desire to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your kindness in extending to me an invitation to be present at this magnificent banquet, given by the citizens of St. John to my friend and colleague, Mr. Pugsley. I am glad to be present for many reasons. As the youngest member of the Administration I am glad to have this early opportunity of becoming better acquainted with one of the oldest provinces of the Dominion, of supplementing at first hand the knowledge I already have of ^{the} its resources and industries of the province, and especially of the seaport advantages of this fine old city of St. John. It is not the first time I have visited this harbour, I have been many times in the city, and have both put out to sea, and returned from across the Atlantic by way of this port. I shall never forget the strength, the beauty, shall I not say the perfection of this harbour as it appeared on the afternoon of that day in April a year and a half ago, when the Empress of Ireland completed one of her many transatlantic journeys and landed us safely in St. John after one of the best of voyages. I have had the privilege and opportunity since that time of travelling around the globe, and I think I can honestly say, that

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