

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, 19th April, 1895.

The **SPEAKER** took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY— INTERNAL ECONOMY.

Mr. **FOSTER** presented a Message from His Excellency the Governor General.

Mr. **SPEAKER** read the Message as follows :—

ABERDEEN.

The Governor General transmits to the House of Commons, an approved minute of Council, appointing the Honourable George Eulas Foster, Minister of Finance, the Honourable Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, Minister of Justice, the Honourable John Graham Haggart, Minister of Railways and Canals, and the Honourable Joseph Aldric Ouimet, Minister of Public Works, to act with the Speaker of the House of Commons, as Commissioners for the purposes and under the provisions of the 13th Chapter of the Revised Statutes of Canada, intituled "An Act respecting the House of Commons."

Government House,
Ottawa, 18th April, 1895.

ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCEL- LENCY'S SPEECH.

The House proceeded to the consideration of His Excellency's speech delivered at the opening of Parliament.

Mr. **BENNETT**. Mr. Speaker, in rising to move that an humble address be presented to His Excellency in answer to the Speech from the Throne in this, what in all probability will be the last session of the 7th Parliament of Canada, I do so fully conscious of the duty entrusted to me, and likewise of the compliment paid to the constituency I represent, and also the compliment to my humble self. In referring to the Address from the Throne, I from the bottom of my heart, aye, Sir, from its innermost core, regret the sad occurrence referred to in the first paragraph, the untimely decease of the late Right Honourable Sir John Thompson. Coming as he did to this House little more than seven years ago, unheralded and unsung, soon it dawned upon the people of Canada as also upon the members of this House, that a master-mind had been placed in this arena. We all remember with what bounds and strides Sir John Thompson advanced. Step by step he passed on until at last the great goal of his ambition was reached, becoming the proud Premier of this vast Dominion. A short year ago we saw the hon. gentleman here, to all

appearances, at least to all outward appearances in the possession of robust and rugged health, and little did we dream that on this our assembling again, he would not be with us, and his absence to-day recalls all more painfully and vividly. Need I recall his tragic death in historic Windsor Castle, aye, even almost in the presence of royalty itself, and the closing of a life and ending of a career not only as a colonial statesman, but in all probability in some future day, had he lived, as an Imperial Councillor. I do not propose to dilate upon his excellencies, that I shall leave to the historian of the future, and when the history of Canada is written no name will stand out in bolder relief than that of the brilliant parliamentarian, the great Premier, the patriotic statesman, Sir John Thompson, of whom well might it be said :

"His life was gentle and the elements so mixed in him,
That nature might stand up to all the world and say : This was a man."

But as we speed the parting guest, so in turn we welcome the coming, and honour having been paid departed merit, it is now my duty to pay respect to existing worth. Thrice in three successive years, the Conservative party of Canada has lost its respected leaders, and thrice in that time has it been prophesied that the downfall of the party would be consummated. But, Sir, I say : that as upon the death of Sir John Macdonald, so upon the death of Sir John Thompson, the ranks were closed, the squares filled, and under the leadership of the talented gentleman who now leads the party, victory is assured, as victory has been assured in the past, when an appeal shall be made to the electorate of this Dominion. Now, Sir, to refer to some of the matters that are contained within the Address. It seems only right and proper that I should at the outset allude to that clause which speaks of the legislation recently enacted by the Imperial Parliament in reference to the Australian provinces, when it is borne in mind that the Rt. Hon. First Minister of the day had a great part in the bringing about of the Colonial Conference, which we were all pleased witnesses of last year. Under the constitution of Australasia, a charter was granted in the year 1873, conferring on those colonies the right of self-government, but for reasons best known to themselves, limitations and provisos were inserted in reference to trade, which resulted in commerce being restricted as between the Australasian colonies themselves. That, Sir, has been to the people of these provinces a serious and great drawback, and that undesirable condition of affairs has been terminated as a result of the intercolonial conference held here last year—a conference which was truly representative,