

I feel bound to add also that the time is coming, if it has not already come, when, to profess to be unacquainted with this movement, will not be regarded as any mark of distinction, but on the contrary, as a sign of want of intelligence and knowledge about something which has become recognized as a most valuable and important agency. It is not a fad; it is not a phantom; it is a practical, a definite, and I believe a growing movement, which is calculated to promote in a comprehensive, patriotic and national manner the true welfare of the country. And with reference to the patriotic and national element, I cannot help remarking that while, as I said, we have on the platform to-night representative members of the representative House, never was that House more truly representative than with reference to the proceedings of last night. Though I am debarred from the privilege of listening to the debates, I am allowed to read them; and the note that was struck last night in the House of Commons, ringing out clear and true, and echoed, as I am sure it will be, in all parts of the Dominion, showed the loyalty, the patriotism, the national principle, which we desire to promote, and which will ever, I believe, be found strong and flourishing within this Women's Council. (Loud applause.) For these reasons I commend the resolution to your acceptance. (Further applause.)

An interlude here followed, during which Mrs. Morris, a member of the Ottawa Morning Musicales, sang.

ADDRESS BY THE HON. GEORGE E. FOSTER.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen :

I am going to make an honest avowal at the outset, and that is that I cannot take any thanks at all for leaving even the much-desired atmosphere of the House upon the hill for such an agreeable re-union as this. Some of the things that are going on there to-night may be very important, but I would not have been sorry if this meeting had been in the afternoon. (Laughter.) I should have enjoyed the calm and peaceful season of two or three hours here probably much more than I enjoyed the afternoon in the House, where I was being stormed at by shot and shell from Sir Richard, as being the unfortunate individual that has to make the budget speech. (Laughter.) I am glad that Your Excellency has not an opposition in this parliament; and when His Excellency remarked that possibly the budget speech that has been delivered to-night was a little lengthy, I felt that it was necessary for me to maintain the perfect right of every person who has to make a budget speech—the exposition of the policy of the party in power (and long may Her Excellency's party be in power)—to unlimited time, and the right not to be criticized for taking all the time that is necessary. (Applause and laughter.)

When the Queen's speech was read in Parliament—I don't know