

this country; I may congratulate the Government upon their success in the management of the fiscal affairs of this country during a period of despondency and gloom; and I may congratulate the Government upon the happy circumstances under which, by the blessing of Providence, it is permitted them to meet Parliament at this time. I have great pleasure in seconding the resolution of the hon. member for Portneuf (Mr. De St. Georges).

STR JOHN A. MACDONALD: Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the House has listened with great pleasure and great instruction—because we have heard some novelties—to the speeches of the hon. gentlemen who have moved and seconded the Address. They have done it with all the ability of experienced parliamentarians. It used to be the practice for the Ministry of the day to get young members of Parliament to fle h their maiden swords in moving and seconding the answer to the Queen's speech. The hon. gentlemen have changed that practice, and, instead of giving younger members an opportunity to show what they were made of, they have, perhaps wisely, placed their case in the hands of men of experience. Why young men were not asked, I do not know. Perhaps the article is scarce now, or perhaps the Government think that their case is such that they require all the experience and ability which those hon. members, the mover and seconder, possess beyond a doubt. I should have been very glad—it would have assisted us a good deal in the discussion of the Address—had we been favoured with some explanations as to the changes in the Administration since we last met. We have had dissolving views which would have done credit to the greatest artists and professors of diorama. The changes have been so great, so frequent and so continuous that one cannot help thinking of the statement of the old monk, who, when showing the pictures of the convent to a stranger, said, "I have been here so many years, there have been so many changes, I have lost so many of my companions, that I am beginning to think that the pictures are the realities

and we are the shadows." While the House of Commons is the substance, the Ministry of the day since 1874 are but the shadows flitting along the wall, which, by-and-bye, with the light of day and the intelligence of the people, will disappear. We are not, however, to get these explanations until by-and-bye. We will wait for them with all patience—patience if we are obliged to observe it. The country is patient with the present Government, although there are some signs of impatience, as I think hon. gentlemen opposite will admit; and we must be also patient until we get these explanations. The seconder of the resolutions has made a most admirable speech and a carefully prepared one, for he always takes care that he speaks with due premeditation, after fully weighing the value of his words, and, in consequence, his words are more valuable because they are not the result of sudden impulse. I know the hon. gentleman carefully thinks out a speech before he delivers it. I have known him to think out carefully the whole question of the revenue of the country, and I have, with great delight and great pleasure, heard him deliver a magnificent speech, showing that Protection was the one thing requisite for this country. The hon. gentleman says he congratulates this country on the first paragraph of the Address, that we are only called upon to attend to the ordinary business of the country while England is threatened with war—which we are not going to have—and the United States is threatened with discredit in connection with the Silver Bill. I have simply to say that we have perhaps enough to do with managing our own affairs, without throwing discredit upon the affairs of our neighbours, who are able to attend to their own business; for, with all the ability of the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton), I think there are men in the United States of equal ability. The hon. gentleman has said that the United States had conferred great honour on the Governor-General by the President returning his visit when His Excellency was in Washington. It was a great honor, but no doubt His Excellency would survive it. But I can assure the hon. gentleman that, if he continues to