

ment of Immigration, and learn that there is coming into our further west, our middle west and portions of the east, so fine a class of settlers. Especially are we pleased to see so many coming in from the neighbouring republic, bringing with them the skill and knowledge they have acquired in the pursuit of agriculture in their own country, and the energy and means of their own which they will contribute to the development of the resources of this new country. Each settler brings with him a boundless faith in this new country of his adoption, and fairly realizes that he is making of Canada a competitor with all countries in the markets of the world, he is surprised to find when he comes here natural resources of a richness that he never dreamed of in his own country.

Reference is also made in the address to the disastrous earthquake which recently occurred in Sicily and Southern Italy; and I am sure that all Canadians were glad to hear that the government had made so generous a grant to the sufferers from that great calamity. We do not know why such things happen, we do not know what may be the inscrutable designs of divine Providence in permitting such disasters to take place; we only know and are happy to see that this great calamity has evoked feelings of sympathy from all nations, which are a credit to human nature itself. Not only Canada but many other countries have contributed many thousands of dollars for the relief of the sufferers from that earthquake.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a great pleasure to me to be able to join with hon. members on this side of the House in congratulating ourselves and the country on the magnificent heritage which we possess in this Canada of ours. You may call her My Lady of the Snows, if you will. Though now robed in white, she will soon be clothed in robes of emerald green and a little later clad in the golden vestments of a bounteous harvest. Certainly we have reason to be proud of this country; we are glad to feel, as I have said before, that we control the largest fisheries in the world; we have in our possession millions of acres of arable and fertile soil, and many other resources of wealth which can never be taken from us. We are already reaping the benefits of science in the various arts employed in the development of this country, and we feel how necessary it is that we should not fritter away our natural resources, but husband them to as full an extent as possible, in order to make of Canada as great and as wealthy a country as the republic to the south of us.

Mr. Speaker, I have much pleasure in moving that a humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to the speech from the Throne.

Mr. TODD.

Mr. JOSEPH P. TURCOTTE (Quebec County). (Translation.) Mr. Speaker, I wish to second the motion made by the hon. member for Charlotte (Mr. F. Todd). My pleasure in doing so is further intensified at the thought that in each case, has a county been wrested from Her Majesty's loyal opposition and added to the realm of this government.

The county of Charlotte, along the coast of the Atlantic, and bathed by that historical river St. Croix, the witness of Champlain's first attempt at colonization within our bounds, and that glorious county of Quebec, wherein lie our great battlefields and are enshrined the purest traditions of the Dominion's French province, have in that way both asserted their confidence in the liberal and progressive policy followed by our statesmen for the last twelve years. The trend of popular feeling thus evidenced throughout the country regardless of local, religious or national differences, is sure proof that the government are working in the interest of the country at large.

It is now incumbent upon us, Mr. Speaker, to consider the speech from the Throne, and to voice the feeling of the House in regard to it. I am in sympathy with the hon. member for Charlotte when he suggests that we should extend our thanks to His Excellency for the courtesy shown towards the House, and at the same time our congratulations regarding the general policy followed by his government. Judging from what has taken place at our first sitting, it would seem to me that such was the unanimous feeling of the House.

It was not without some misgivings that I came to take my seat in this House, having surmised from what appeared in the papers, that this was a place for everlasting discussions and downright obstruction. Those misgivings no longer exist. At the opening of the session, I heard from the mouth of the Prime Minister, a proposal of the greatest import: we were called upon to decide who should preside over the debates in this House as long as this parliament lasts. The proposal was made, the House agreed to it without discussion, and to-day we have at our head a man of experience, whose past services are the best assurance that the dignity of this House will be duly safeguarded. I am thus led to believe, Mr. Speaker, that it is customary with the government to introduce none but commendable measures. The opposition being deprived thereby of all occasion for criticism. In fact, it would have been impossible to open this first session of parliament under more auspicious circumstances.

Now, if we pass on to a consideration of the speech from the Throne, I may say it appears to me as comprising two parts quite distinct from one another. The first shows how friendly is the intercourse between the representative of the Crown and the representatives of the people. Such