

### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. I presume that it will be in accordance with the wish of the House that the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne should be considered before any other business is taken up. I, therefore, move :

That the introduction of Bills, Questions by Members and Notices of Motion be postponed until after the consideration of the Order of the Day.

Mr. LAURIER. I would ask the hon. gentleman to allow the questions to be put to-day.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. I would have no objection to that, but I suppose that at the close of the debate, which is not likely to last long, the questions might be put and answered.

Mr. LAURIER. Very well.

Motion agreed to.

### MEMBER INTRODUCED.

EDWARD CHARLES BOWERS, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of Digby : introduced by Hon. Mr. Laurier and Mr. Fraser.

### ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

The House proceeded to the consideration of His Excellency's Speech at the opening of the Session.

Mr. NORTHRUP. In rising to move that a humble Address be presented to His Excellency, in reply to the Speech delivered from the Throne last Thursday, I confidently trust that the same kind indulgence and generous forbearance by this House which in times past has always been extended to those upon whom has devolved the like duty, will not be withheld from me to-day. Did I consult my own feelings, I would much prefer that upon some abler, more experienced and better qualified member of the House than I to discharge it, had fallen the duty which I now undertake, but, recognizing that the honour which is thus conferred is not upon me, but upon the worthy constituency which I have the honour to represent, knowing that I am expected not to express my own opinion, but to voice the sentiments to which the East Riding of Hastings gave utterance in such thundering tones a week ago last Saturday, I rise with pleasure and with pride, though at the same time with diffidence, to move the adoption of this Address. His Excellency has seen fit at the opening of his Speech to congratulate us upon the general prosperity of the Dominion and upon the abundant harvest with which Providence has blessed all parts of the country, and, inasmuch as in these matters a just comprehension of positive truth can only be attained by a fair comparison between the present and the past, I think it will not be out of place for me to ask members of the House to indulge in a retrospect and to compare the condition of the land and the state of the people, the existing circumstances and the national prospects to-day and 25 years ago. Indeed this is an exceptionally favourable time for us to make that comparison, as we have now completed our first national epoch and are proceeding with the second epoch of our country, and are daily making its history, whether to the shame or the glory of the country time will unerringly tell. Although the first epoch is closed, and the volume of its history is written, it is not a

Mr. SPEAKER.

sealed book, but its pages lie open from which all may learn, as so many Canadians have already learned, lessons from which to draw courage, inspiration, and bright hopes—lessons of predictions verified, of promises fulfilled, of obstacles surmounted, of success attained, of prosperity realized. We are now at the beginning of the second epoch of our history. For the first time in the history of our country the present Parliament has assembled without the assistance and encouragement of the counsels and advice of the venerable Nestor who has been called away from us and who has been so happily entitled the Father of Confederation. For twenty-five years the policy of the country has been mainly fashioned and framed and its destiny guided and controlled by the masterly hand of the late lamented Right Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald. Although for twenty-five years his policy has been attacked, his measures criticized, his motives questioned, and his reputation assailed, still, now that the great leader has been carried to his last resting-place, now that the last political battle has been fought, the last shot fired, and the smoke cleared away from the field of action, now that the last blow has been struck, I believe the people of this country, seeing with vision unclouded and eye undimmed, Reformers and Conservatives alike, agree that whatever his reputation, that is, the man as he has been described or supposed or imagined by those about him, his character, the man as he was, not as he was thought, as he was known to his Maker, not as he was judged by his fellows, was pure and unsullied, and that during his whole political life, from the beginning all along the lines down to its brilliant close, he was ever true to those principles which were at once the basis and the apex of his political faith, love for Canada, faith in Canadians, and loyalty to the Crown. But, although we have finished, as I have said, the first epoch of our history, there are lessons to be drawn from it, there are comparisons which it is necessary for us to make at the present time in order to understand the position of this country at this time when it commences its second epoch. Twenty-five years ago, this country consisted of a few scattered provinces, with no community of interest, with very little interprovincial communication or interprovincial trade. Each province regulated its own tariff and was working out its own destiny along its own lines, within its own limits, and regardless of the interests or fortunes of the other provinces. At that time there were many clouds looming up on the political horizon. What is the case at present? We have now a great Dominion stretching from ocean to ocean, reaching from the storm-beaten shores of Labrador to the sunny slopes of the Pacific, and we have all these different territories brought into one and united by a great work, a marvel of engineering skill, the envy of the world and the pride of Canada, the Canadian Pacific Railway, which is the result of the policy of this Government. Twenty-five years ago the provinces by the sea had so little interest in the western provinces, and we in them, that, when our friends from the east came to Ontario and Quebec, which were then the western provinces, they were practically unknown to us, while we visiting their provinces were viewed almost as curiosities, but now we are able to agree that at all events we will join with our Reform friends in unrestricted reciprocity in