

session of parliament that I should be occupying the position I am in at the present moment. I have simply to say that I am here from duty and for duty. The time will soon arrive when some other hon. gentleman who is more able and a better parliamentarian than I am will occupy the position that I now hold. And the duties which devolve upon me to-day will devolve in the future upon some one who is younger, more energetic, more talented and better able to deal with public questions than I am. Be that as it may, I will endeavour so long as I do occupy this position to perform the duties pertaining to it with what little ability I possess and from the standpoint which I believe to be in the public interest. When I first read the speech which is now before us for consideration, I came to the conclusion that there was some master-hand behind the scene who was an adept at using a great many words, saying them very nicely and conveying very little thereby. However, upon re-reading it there are many points at which one can read between the lines and we must, I think, come to this conclusion that the gentleman who wrote this speech and those for whom he wrote it, were in a state of perfect satisfaction with the position which they hold themselves and that they hoped that others who would read the address would come to the same conclusion. However, we will try and deal in as short a manner as possible with the subjects that are presented to our notice.

No one will disagree with the first paragraph. We all rejoice at the prosperity of the country, arising as it does from various causes which I shall not weary the House by enumerating just now. I would merely say, parenthetically, that while the prosperity undoubtedly exists, I do not lay the credit for it exclusively at the door of the hon. gentlemen who control the destinies of the Dominion at present. I am under the impression that there is a higher and a stronger—an omnipotent power—who has given us that prosperity—higher and stronger even than the distinguished gentlemen who are sitting before me. The next portion of the address invites us to express sympathy with Queen Alexandra at the death of her father. That sympathy undoubtedly exists, and is shared by every member of the British race no matter in what part of the world he may live. We not only sympathize

with the daughter of the King of Denmark but we regret the death of the King himself. He was perhaps the most eminent among the rulers of the smaller principalities or countries of the world, and no sovereign outside of our own empire who has been reigning for such a long time was more universally beloved than the King of Denmark. He occupied a most distinguished position, and his family occupied most distinguished positions; he was a man of exemplary philanthropy, and we all believe that it was a loss to his country when he died and we deeply sympathize with our Queen in her bereavement.

Next we come to the paragraph to which my hon. friend, if I may so term him, who moved the address, paid somewhat particular attention. The Governor General in the course of the year visited the western country and saw a great deal of it. I believe that no one can pay a visit for the first time to the Northwest Territories and reflect upon its immense possibilities without coming to the conclusion at which His Excellency arrived.

When he said that there was universal rejoicing in Alberta and in Saskatchewan at becoming constituent parts of the confederation, and that they were happy and contented he stated what is very true. How could His Excellency come to any other conclusion, surrounded as he was by a people contented so far as their own interests are concerned. But he might have gone further and said there was latent discontent in the minds of the people, that seed of discord had been sown which would grow and ripen in the future. He was surrounded by all that would lead him to the conclusion that happiness and contentment prevail throughout the country; there was no one there to present the other side of the question, and consequently he could come to but one conclusion, and that is the conclusion which has been put in his mouth by the ministers, that universal rejoicing exists. The hon. gentleman who moved the answer to the address told us that the vote which was cast in the province was, to use his own language, an emphatic approval by the people not only of the Autonomy Bill, but of those sections of it which had created so much difficulty. He followed that immediately by telling the House that he had been in the Northwest Council for eight years—