

Hon. Gentlemen of the Senate :

Gentlemen of the House of Commons :

After the long protracted session of the last year, when so many important matters were dealt with, it is not probable that your duties will involve your being detained on the present occasion for any lengthened period.

I have no desire to make any invidious references or enter into any particulars, but simply throw out the suggestion to hon. gentlemen opposite, in the best of good feeling, that they would deserve well of their country if they would unite with gentlemen on the treasury benches in the endeavour to carry out the wish expressed by His Excellency and thus prove that the hope he indulged is not a vain one. I might perhaps enlarge on this theme, but I find that I am exceeding the limit of time at my disposal. Once more the representatives of the people are gathered together in parliament to devise measures for the good of our country. Never before in the history of this Dominion has its outlook been so bright. With the public treasury overflowing, with the fertile areas of our western country rapidly filling up with home-seekers and home-makers, with settlers and capital seeking our shores, surely it is incumbent on us to devise liberal measures, measures commensurate with the growth of Canada and her prospects, to meet the increasing demands of our rapidly increasing trade. All irritating questions of a racial and sectional type being happily out of the way, clean gone for ever, I fervently hope, Mr. Speaker, —thanks in the main to the master mind which has guided the destinies of this country since the Liberal party have come to office—we may confidently look forward to a lengthy period of national growth and prosperity. The people of Canada need have no fear for the future, if measures bold and wise be devised for our development. In the great task of building up a nation on the northern half of this continent we must see that we lay the foundation strong, firm and sure. Let us be true to our splendid traditions, let us use wisely the magnificent heritage with which Providence has endowed us, and we cannot fail, in our day and generation, to contribute much to the up-building of our beloved Canada.

Mr. L. A. RIVET (Hochelaga). (Translation.) Mr. Speaker, the task which devolves upon me of seconding the address in answer to the speech from the Throne carries with it a responsibility, the thought of which impresses me particularly. I would have been tempted to avoid it had I not been assured of your indulgence and prompted by a deep sense of my duty towards my province and my country. I must say, however, that the able and eloquent remarks just made by the hon. member for North Ontario (Mr. Grant) have rendered that task much easier for me to fulfil.

Mr. GRANT.

At the outset, allow me, Sir, to heartily congratulate you on your election to the exalted position which you occupy. Your choice as Speaker of this House has been welcomed with the greatest joy throughout the country. It was especially gratifying to the two great provinces of the Dominion to which you belong, having been born and brought up in the one, and being a most distinguished representative of the other. All are assured that, following in the footsteps of your predecessor, you will display in the fulfilment of your duties perfect courtesy and a deep knowledge of parliamentary and constitutional law.

My colleague, the hon. member for North Ontario, has expressed intense satisfaction at the prosperous condition of our country. I need not say that I am in this respect entirely in sympathy with him. That prosperity which is apparent not only to the citizens of Canada, but to strangers as well, could not but attract the attention of His Excellency the Governor General, and the reference to it in the speech from the Throne is the mere official recording of the most salient and general feature of this period of our history. Yes, Mr. Speaker, it is with a sense of legitimate pride that every Canadian witnesses the marvellous development of this country since 1896 and the position it has attained in the movement impelling all nations towards social and economic progress. We are proud to point out to that marvellous impetus, to that remarkable spring in all spheres of national activity. I welcome that unexpected increase in our trade, which has more than doubled in the space of eight years. I greet with joy the abundance and comfort enjoyed by our farming community, whose members are no longer, at regular intervals, reduced by emigration. I rejoice at the sight of all these new industries springing up throughout the land, the prosperity of each and all of which adds to our public wealth.

It is also a comforting sight to observe the labouring man, no longer obliged, as in days bygone, to seek under distant climes the means of sustenance which could not be found at home, but enjoying in his own country, through the use of his brains and muscle, better wages and a more pleasant life than could be had in a foreign land. I rejoice at learning that the tide of emigration towards the great republic to the south of us has changed to a return homeward of our people and to a current of foreign immigration directed towards our rich western plains. I am proud to notice that, by means of such development and such progress, Canada has taken a place among the nations which have a part to play at the opening of the present century. But, in the presence of this new manifestation of strength and vitality which breaks forth in all domains of society, in the presence of my country changed into an immense hive,