

seen them everywhere except here; while they have been through the country from end to end, I suppose it was not to be expected that they should have found time to carry out that portion of legislation. I was told when I made the suggestion that other arrangements might be carried out which would give a more efficient judiciary to the Province of Quebec, without expense or an addition to the number of judges, that the matter was pressing, that it was urgent, that it ought to be passed that Session because the business of the litigants of the Province of Quebec demanded the appointment of an additional judge. The law passed, it came into force, and the judge is not named. How is that? What is the difficulty? Was it impossible? Was it found afterwards the judge was not needed? Was there an *embarras de richesse* as to the nominee? How does it happen that that which was so necessary, that no time was afforded for the consideration of some other plan, has turned out not to be at all necessary? So again with respect to another institution—the Penitentiary of St. Vincent de Paul—where we had a report that it was necessary to supersede the warden, and that it was necessary to reorganize the establishment. We heard rumors that we were to suffer the loss of a respected member of this House—the hon. member for L'Assomption (Mr. Hurteau). We heard that he was about to prefer the presidency over a number of convicted criminals to association with the respectable individuals who compose this Chamber. But we are happy to know that he is still with us, and we would like to know the reason why.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. He cannot part from you.

Mr. BLAKE. It is said that he found a little condition attached to his elevation to that exalted office, namely, that satisfactory arrangements should be made for the county. The county was not capable of being satisfactorily arranged for, owing to an *embarras de richesse* of Conservative candidates. My hon. friend, who smiles at me opposite, went down there, and when it was found impossible to reconcile these differences, my hon. friend from L'Assomption announced that he would retain that *mandat* which he had been prepared to abandon, and my hon. friend from Bagot (Mr. Mousseau) congratulated him on the patriotic spirit which induced him, under such circumstances, and in view of these difficulties, to remain a member of this House and not become a warden of the penitentiary. And so it was that after many months of discussion the institution remained unprovided for, and it is but lately that an arrangement for the wardenship of that institution has been made; thus it being made palpable that political considerations, that the political view of patronage which my hon. friend from Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron) is very anxious should be maintained, have interfered considerably with the efficient administration of the public service in an important particular. I, of course, agree, and very heartily, in the views which have been expressed in the Speech with reference to the calamity which befel the Republic of the United States of America. We must all do that, and agree not merely in the spirit, but also in the language in which that allusion is made. It is a painful commentary upon an advanced civilization that such an event should have been possible, and that in the history of that great country, within so brief a period, the lives of two of the freely elected governors of that country, should have terminated in such a tragic way. I will add no more than this, that we heartily rejoice to know that the illness which unfortunately afflicted my hon. friend opposite (Sir John A. Macdonald) has terminated so favorably, and that he meets us again restored to his usual health; and that although we may hope that he shall change his position in this House at an early period, we hope he will continue to grace this House for many years with that ability which he has heretofore displayed.

Mr. BLAKE.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I can cordially join my hon. friend in many things he has said during his interesting speech to-day. In the first place, I join with him in offering my sincere congratulations to the Mover and Seconder of the Resolutions, for the able manner in which they have pressed those Resolutions on the attention of this House. I can also congratulate my hon. friend opposite on the kindly and pleasant tone in which he has addressed himself so early in the Session to the discussion of matters of legislation and administration to which he has alluded. I thank him especially, and most sincerely, for his very kind allusion to myself. Probably we are to remain looking at each other; I cannot hope—although I would like it—to be ranged on the same side as the hon. gentleman, but we will look at each other as pleasantly as we can. My hon. friend is pleased with the Address on the whole, and with the improved tone as regards the extraordinary prosperity in Canada. He said that formerly we attributed everything to ourselves, but now we are so far improved in our manners, our morals, and our sentiments, that we give some thanks to the Greater Power. The hon. gentleman said we had given one day to God and 364 to ourselves. My hon. friend seems to grudge that one day, and I really do think, from the tone—the rather light tone—of my hon. friend that he was not very thankful on that same day. There is no doubt we have great reason to be thankful for several years of prosperity, and it is one of the happinesses of myself and my friends who surround me that we have had Providence smile upon us; and all that we can attribute to ourselves is this: that under a favoring Providence we have attempted to the best of our humble capacity to develop the interests of the country, and remove the stagnation under which it suffered; and we are proud to know, from the statement of my hon. friend himself, that our exertions have not been altogether unsuccessful. My hon. friend laid down the true principle, I think, of discussions of this kind on the opening of a Session in Parliament. Motions in amendment and long discussions are obsolete, except in very exceptional cases where the continuance of the confidence of Parliament in the Administration of the day is to be questioned. Then, of course, the sooner that is brought to a decision, the better; but, with that exception, it is a well understood rule now that the sooner we get to work the better, and that this preliminary discussion is merely a sort of undress rehearsal.

Mr. MACKENZIE. I am glad you have changed your mind.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Well, I sometimes do change my mind. I am not a Bourbon. I learn something, and I forget something; and apropos of that, the hon. gentleman congratulates us, on several occasions, on some improvements in land regulations and other matters,—that we have really taken a leaf out of his book, and the book of the Opposition. We are not too proud to learn even from my hon. friend. Not being Reformers, we find occasionally something to reform; and as with us who are not Reformers, the good of the country and not self gratulation or pride in our own opinion, is the chief guiding principle. We do occasionally, not very often, find that we can improve on even our own original ideas. Well, my hon. friend stated the principle correctly, but entered rather fully, and I think with some contradiction in spirit, into doctrines which he had laid down, and too fully, in the absence of papers and means of verifying statements, into the various subjects which the interests of the country demands should be discussed coolly. I do not, however, object to that or complain of it. The hon. gentleman speaks in a very proper and patriotic tone of his pleasure at the progress in the North-West. We are proud of that progress. We ought all, as Canadians, to be proud of it, and this Government has certainly some cause for congratulations through having been, in some degree, the means by which that country has