

tion of the boundary between Canada and Alaska, it was most satisfactory to see the hon. leader of the Opposition, relying on a precedent set up by Lord Roseberry, holding out a helping hand to the hon. the leader of the Government, in order to safeguard our national honour. True, at the very time when this generous assistance was being proffered, the honourable commissioners representing Canada at the international conference had honourably discharged their duty. Still, this delicate tribute paid to the policy of the Government, this wholesale endorsement given to the noble attitude taken by our commissioners by no less exalted a personage than the leader of the loyal Opposition of Her Majesty, such tribute, I say, is none the less creditable to the latter, although the methods of action suggested by him seem to savour a little too much of the ages of chivalry. At the outset of this international conference, we could not help experiencing a feeling of national pride when we saw the hon. leader of the Government selecting the historic city of Quebec, the former capital of the old French provinces in America, as the seat of that conference, which was called upon to usher in a new era of peace and harmony. As in the days of Augustus, the doors of the temple of Janus seemed to be closed and the hon. leader of the Opposition himself announced his determination not to break a truce so necessary to the safeguard of the dearest interests of Canada. But later on, when the seat of the conference was removed to Washington, while the hon. leader of the Government, aided by his honourable colleagues, under the presidency of the venerable and regretted Lord Herschell, was peacefully but energetically coping with the American diplomats, securing the settlement of several points in dispute, thus preventing a rupture which the conflicting interests of both countries made more and threatening at every moment, then it was, I say, that hostile newspapers realizing as well as we did that the pressure brought to bear by public opinion in the United States was handicapping and jeopardizing the labours of the commission, did not hesitate to give expression to their untimely rejoicing and to say that the conference was a failure. Fortunately, such was not the case. The representatives of Canada, true to the end to their mission of peace, were at the very same time displaying an energy which called forth a tribute of praise and admiration from all parties. No, Sir, this conference was not a failure. It will not be said that it was to no purpose that great minds shall have conferred together for months and months and assumed the responsibility of finding a common-sense solution of pending differences. It will not be recorded in history that it was to no purpose that among those arbiters, representatives of human justice and equity, two shall have, before the termination of their labours, been summoned before the high

tribunal of their Sovereign Maker. The work thus commenced and momentarily interrupted is not lost. "In God we trust" say the Americans. "Dieu et mon droit" shall we say, in our turn, borrowing the words from the motto of the English Crown, and I may remark, in passing, that we, French Canadians, are as proud as our English compatriots of this devise, coming as it does in straight line to us from Normandy, a country from which, we, in common with themselves, claim, for the most part our descent. I hope, Sir, that the hon. leader of the Opposition will not avail himself of this distant relationship to raise trouble for us after the fashion of our Norman ancestors who were remarkable for their love of chicanery, but on the contrary, we hope the Government will often find him willing to proffer a generous co-operation. Such is the wish I dare express for the adoption of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne of which I have the honour to second the motion.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). Mr. Speaker, it now becomes my pleasing duty to offer my hearty congratulations to the hon. member for East Prince (Mr. Bell) upon the able speech with which he has just favoured the House, in presenting the motion which has been placed in your hands. The ability that that hon. gentleman brings to the discharge of his duties in this House will cause him to be regarded, I am sure, by every hon. gentleman as a great accession to the debating strength of the House. No person is more gratified than I am to find gentlemen who are elected to sit upon that side bringing to the discharge of their public duties such ability and talent as the hon. member has exhibited to-day. I venture, however, to believe that, with the great intelligence which the hon. gentleman has shown on the present occasion, before he has been here for a very long period, his views will be materially modified, at least with regard to the cause of the great prosperity which, we are all glad to recognize, Canada is enjoying to-day. I listened with especial pleasure to one declaration on the part of the hon. gentleman, a declaration in which, I trust, he expressed the feeling of every member on that side of the House, as I am sure he did of every gentleman on this side, that we shall best discharge our duty to Canada by recognizing that we occupy no dependent position upon our great neighbour to the south of us, but, with the enormous natural advantages with which Providence has favoured this country, we are able to mark out for ourselves an independent course which will command the respect, and even the approval of our neighbours. I regard with great satisfaction the statement made by the hon. mover of the resolution, that he considers the proposition made by the representatives of the United States on