

made by the First Minister at Sherbrooke, I trust that the government will to the fullest extent meet this great patriotic upheaval of public sentiment throughout the Dominion of Canada, and leave nothing undone which will tend to reflect the highest honour on Canada, as a part of the great British Empire to which we are so proud to belong.

**THE PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier).** Mr. Speaker, I am happy at the outset of this discussion to be able to join with the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) in congratulating the mover and seconder of this address. My hon. friend who has placed in your hands the motion now before the House has been selected by the West Riding of Ontario to take the place on the floor of this House of the hon. gentleman who, before you, Sir, discharged, and discharged with much acceptance, the high position of Speaker of the House of Commons of Canada. My hon. friend has shown that he is no unworthy successor of that hon. gentleman. The speech which he delivered was practical, lucid, to the point, and without any undue waste of words, a quality which, I am sure, ought to be duly appreciated in this House. My hon. friend who seconded the motion had been preceded in this House by the reputation of two hon. members, his close relatives, who, before him, represented the riding of Chambly and Verchères. Such is the fleeting motion of time in this feverish age that perhaps there are but few members of this House who remember the late Mr. Felix Geoffrion in his early days, before he had been stricken down with the dread disease from which he never fully recovered; but those who remember him will gladly testify that in his brighter days he was one of the brightest ornaments of this House. As to his successor in the representation of the riding, the late Mr. Alphonse Geoffrion, I am sure his memory is and will ever be held green in the hearts of those who came in contact with him. His great ability, his genial qualities, his kindness of heart, were such as will never be forgotten by any who had the privilege of his acquaintance and still less of his friendship. My hon. friend has shown himself a true scion of that gifted family, and will continue in this House the traditions left by the two gentlemen whose name he has the honour to bear.

May I be permitted also to offer my congratulations to the hon. leader of the opposition. I have been anticipated in this very pleasant duty by my hon. friend from Chambly and Verchères. My hon. friend, with the acceptance of this side of the House, and I am sure with the still greater acceptance of the other side, congratulated the House in general, and my hon. friend in particular, upon the fact that we see him at the opening of this session, still hale, hearty

and vigorous; and we all appreciate the great efforts he is making for his party, and in his own opinion, for his country at his time of life. Long may he enjoy a green old age; and, if I am to speak still more intimately, for myself and for those for whom perhaps, I may claim the privilege to speak, long may he continue to adorn the seat he now occupies and from which he may still thunder forth his denunciations of the government. May I likewise be permitted to offer him another compliment, if he will accept it from me? May I be permitted to offer him the congratulations of this side of the House at least, upon the happy and novel feature which he has introduced in his speech to-day. If it were not out of place and if I might be critical without offence, perhaps I might be pardoned for saying that my hon. friend has never particularly cultivated the art of condensation. He has always relied more for effect upon reiteration and emphasis than upon concentration. Last year, upon a similar occasion, though the subjects we had to deal with, were not of the same character of importance as the subject we have to deal with at this time, my hon. friend occupied very nearly five hours of the time of the House to tell his thoughts to his fellow-members. Upon this occasion my hon. friend would have got through within two hours had it not been for the insistence of his friends beside and behind him; but on their insistence he took three hours, in spite of this. I congratulate him upon the good example he has given to his followers; and, if his followers profit by that example, we may perhaps hope to conclude the session in some reasonable space of time.

My hon. friend has consecrated the whole of his speech to the question of our policy and our conduct in regard to the war in Africa. I quite approve of the conduct of my hon. friend in this particular. Certainly there never was before the Canadian parliament a more important question. It is important in itself, important in its incidents, important in its causes, important in its possible consequences. I would have preferred if my hon. friend had approached the question in a more judicial and calmer spirit than he has done. My hon. friend has been in turn severe and somewhat patronizing. He has approved and he has blamed our course. I am not indifferent, I may be pardoned for saying, to the kind things he has said of us—of me in particular; but I can afford to lay them aside to come rather to the severe things which he has said of myself and the government in general. If I may now analyse the criticisms which have been offered by my hon. friend on this occasion upon the policy followed by the government, they can be summed up under two heads. He approved of what we did, but he found fault with the manner in which we did it. He approved of our policy