

superior judgment, to do all that we possibly can to carry out in this House what will be in the best interests of the Dominion of Canada. In regard to the various clauses of the speech with which we have been favoured, some hon. gentlemen may think that it is not quite extensive enough, and that it does not contain all that they would like to see put in the speech, but we are quite sure that all the useful statutes that are to be placed on the statute-books of our country are not foreshadowed by this synopsis that we have here. It is a good deal better to accomplish more than is promised than to fall short of what may be predicted.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. BLACK—And I presume that will be the result in this instance, that legislation will be very much more important than is indicated by the speech. I think it is the general opinion of all public men, both in the Commons and in the Senate, that the present session will be a short one, that the labours of the past few sessions were so prolonged that the members become worn and weary in the hot season of the year, and probably, from what I learn, that when the earth begins to make the grass green again we shall be wending our way home to engage in the rural delights of the country. Now, in regard to the Northwest Territories and its growth, it is apparent to every hon. gentleman present when they see that for the last five or six years nearly one half a million population have gone into that country, that in order to form a correct opinion or in any degree grasp the situation in the prairie country it is necessary for our public men to travel its length and breadth. I have been fortunate enough to have been across the continent and up and down the coast, and it is wonderful to see the great riches of the country in agriculture and minerals. When we leave the fisheries, that I have not referred to on the east coast, we come to the fisheries of the west, and we cannot say too much in respect of the natural resources of this great country of ours. Therefore, I have no doubt that all legislation in the direction of increasing the local powers of the Northwest Territories will be considered in the best interests of that section of the country. There is a

clause in the speech which refers to the St. Louis exposition. I am sure that any hon. gentleman who had the pleasure of visiting that exposition and going through the various departments, had no reason whatever to be ashamed of the products of Canada in competition with those of other countries. In fact, you could spend hours there and be delighted to feel that you belonged to a country, so new as ours, which could produce an exhibit such as could be seen there. I have not thought it necessary to extend my remarks, because the mover of the address has covered all the ground in a much more eloquent and forceful manner than I could, and I shall close my remarks by seconding my hon. friend's motion.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—The mover and seconder of the reply to the address have set me an admirable example, and I shall endeavour to follow it by occupying the time of the House for a very brief space indeed. Before referring to the address permit me, Mr. Speaker, to compliment you on the honour which has been conferred upon you by the government in selecting you to preside over this body. I think I speak the sentiments of every hon. gentleman on this side of the House, and with whom I act, when I express the belief that your duty will be performed in a fair and impartial manner. It is true we may differ upon many points when questions of order arise. That is incident to human nature, but I am quite convinced that whenever those difficulties do arise, that they will be treated in that courteous manner that should obtain between members of the Senate. I take this, my first opportunity, to express my own sentiments, and I believe the sentiments of the Conservative party, with whom I generally act, upon this point. The speech from the Throne is more important, shall I say, in what it does not contain than in what is really contained in it. I frankly admit that I concur in the remarks made by the hon. seconder of the address, that it is very much better to perform what you promise than to make a number of promises and never carry them out. That is the position my hon. friend has taken and he thinks it is a good policy. I acquiesce in that. We have had many and many promises upon very great and important ques-