

gers. That is a deplorable accident that may happen on any road, but picture, if you can, the advertising it would have received if it had happened on the Grand Trunk Pacific. Why, every man, woman, and child in this Dominion would have heard about it, and would not have been permitted to forget it. They would have had moving pictures of it, showing the rescue of the passengers from the Grand Trunk Pacific.

I have spoken at much greater length than I intended. I simply wish to say in closing that the people of northern British Columbia are, many of them, carrying on their part in the face of adverse conditions and unfair freight rates, but they have faith in the policy of Sir Wilfrid Laurier as expressed in the Grand Trunk Pacific railway and we hope and expect that that road will still come into its own.

Hon. Sir HENRY DRAYTON (West York): Mr. Speaker, at the opening of my remarks, may I associate myself with those members who have spoken so many words of congratulation to the mover (Mr. Putnam) and the seconder (Mr. Rhéaume) of the Address. May I also associate myself with the expressions of condolence in respect of members who are now no longer with us, and with the words of welcome to our new brethren.

It was not my intention at all to weary the House with a speech on this Address, but the speech made the other day by my hon. friend the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) has made it necessary that I should trespass somewhat upon the time of the House.

I want first to say something else in the way of congratulation. I want to congratulate the House and the Minister of Finance upon the results of that trip of his overseas. He has come back to us in great shape. He is in splendid form, and is looking ever so much better than when he went away. We are all very happy to see him looking so well, and to find him so vigorous. I think we are all at one in that respect. I only wish, Mr. Speaker, that I could say as much for the substance of the speech as I can say with all truthfulness of the speaker.

We have not from this side of the House done anything to prolong this debate. I think I am the third speaker from the official opposition. Nor indeed did our leader in opening the debate enter the field of—what shall we call it?—the field which might be reserved for very contentious political matters. Why, he was so mild and so quiet that the Prime Minister congratulated him upon his utter-

ances, and said how pleased he was to be able to agree with so very much that the leader of the Opposition had said. Then a change took place. Amendments were made to the Address. Something had to be done to revive the party spirit, and the government called to their assistance that gentleman above all others who was most capable of performing that very necessary function: and he did it well. They called to their assistance that member of the government who was the most likely to command the respect of my friends to my left, to whom his appeals were really directed. Yes, and for the purpose of making those appeals more pointed, attacks were made upon the leader of the Opposition growing out of his address.

I want to say in the first place, Mr. Speaker, that in every point taken by the hon. leader of the Opposition he was correct in his information. I want to say that just as bluntly and as plainly as I can. What did he say? He said that there was an increase in the debt. Is there any doubt about it? His figures were the figures of the hon. Minister of Finance. He also said that there had been more collected through customs taxation. Is there any doubt about it? The figures, again, are the figures of the hon. Minister of Finance. He also gave certain percentages. Again is there any doubt about his figures? The percentages are correct. It may well be that percentages do not amount to much. The taxpayer, after all, is not so much interested in percentages. But the fact is that a considerably greater sum of money has been taken from the people of the country for customs this year than was taken last year, and that is the gravamen of what the hon. leader of the Opposition said. It is quite true. It is also true that, over and above that, increases were made in the sales tax.

There is another thing. Although corrected by my hon. leader, the hon. Minister of Finance stuck to it that a direct charge had been made against him of floating money in the New York market, that that of itself was a crime, and he maintained that it was a charge, not simply a remark which had grown out of something said by the hon. Minister of Justice (Sir Lomer Gouin) during the election campaign. Let us have no doubt about this matter. During the speech of the Minister of Finance, as reported at page 99 of Hansard, the leader of the Opposition is thus reported:

Mr. Meighen: The hon. member will do me the justice to say that I introduced that with reference to the speech made by the Minister of Justice, who stated that we owed the United States so much in 1921 that we were drifting towards annexation.