

an easy one. The hon. gentleman, with that skill acquired in 1866 and since, has left but little for me to say or do in the matter. He commenced at the paragraph which refers to the harvest, and, passing over the entire field, reaps the whole harvest of speech which it affords. Had I anticipated that he would have gathered so closely, I should have said to the leader of the Government, I would thank him to instruct his young man to leave a few handfulls for me to glean after him. But, under any circumstances, hon. gentlemen, the task would be comparatively easy, for this Speech from the Throne, I believe, in its main features, commends itself to the intelligence of this House, and of the country at large. We are asked in the opening paragraph, as has been stated by the hon. mover of the Address, to accept the congratulations of His Excellency for the bountiful harvest with which Canada has been blessed. The blessings of a good harvest, hon. gentlemen, are very widely diffused, and I was reminded upon looking at that volume which lies on the table before me, but which is seldom quoted in Parliament, except by our chaplain, of a very excellent authority, who says that "the profits of the earth are for all, and the king himself is served by the field;" and, therefore, hon. gentlemen, as the blessings of the harvest are widely diffused from king to people, all ranks and conditions of life, high and low, rich and poor, can with grateful hearts to the Giver of all good, accept the offered congratulations for the blessings of this bountiful harvest which has been given to our whole land. But, hon. gentlemen, as has been remarked before by my hon. friend opposite, it is not in this year alone that we have had good harvests. These words of congratulation have become familiar to our ears. For many years in succession Canada has been blessed with good harvests, and yet, as he says, the results that might naturally be anticipated from good harvests, have not been realized. We were for a period of years, to a certain extent, content with those good harvests. We were content that Providence should give us sunshine and rain, and should bring the seed which the agriculturist cast into the ground to maturity, but

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we left undeveloped all the other vast natural resources which that same good Providence had placed in our hands. The same bountiful hand that dropped down fatness from the clouds, that gave the dew and the rain, and the sunshine that warmed and invigorated the seed cast into the ground; the same hand that, with golden sunbeams, gilded the ripening corn, cast in profusion all over this Dominion, from sea to sea, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, an inexhaustible supply of every material required in building up this great country, and making her prominent among the nations of the earth. But we left these comparatively untouched—we used but one of the many talents that were committed to our care. We gathered the bountiful harvests Providence gave, and spent the surplus, as well as large loans, mainly in foreign countries, in the purchase of goods which gave employment to the people of those lands, thereby sustaining their industries, developing their resources, and adding to their property and greatness. For five long years the craft upon our rivers and lakes were comparatively unemployed; the cars on our railways ran half filled, except in bringing to us the produce of foreign industries; our factories comparatively idle or closed, and the public records and exchequer, year by year, proclaiming our growing poverty. So manifest had this become, notwithstanding the benefits of the good harvests, that the public attention was turned to the consideration of a remedy, and the public sentiment of this country, with a unanimity rarely seen, declared that the policy of the Government should be changed. That change was made in accordance with the will of the people, as declared in 1878. And we are now, as the hon. gentleman opposite says, seeing some of the fruits of this change, and that part of the paragraph of the Speech which has so often met our eyes has been expanded and completed, and we are congratulated not only for the blessings of a bountiful harvest, but the returned prosperity, and the substantial development of the industries of the country. The next paragraph of the Speech refers to a question that has for a long period occupied the attention of this country. There is, perhaps, no question