

times to address himself intelligently to the consideration of subjects that may come before this Chamber. The second of the resolution is entitled to the indulgence of this House, because, as he says, he has not been familiar with the mode of addressing bodies, deliberative or otherwise. The hon. gentleman, however, expressed himself very clearly and very forcibly from his own standpoint. While I am quite prepared to approve of the manner in which not only he, but the mover of the resolution, addressed the House, I must say I cannot quite agree with the matter that they submitted for our consideration. They naturally seek to praise the Administration—the prosperity of the country, such as we have to-day, is due entirely, in the opinions of those gentlemen, to the policy of the Administration. They are in very close political alliance with the Government, and it is natural that they should deliver themselves as they have done on the present occasion.

With the first paragraph of the Address I am enabled to cordially acquiesce, and I am quite sure that in saying that I speak the sentiments of every gentleman within the range of my voice. His Excellency, the Marquis of Lansdowne, who has been recently appointed to fill the high position of Governor General of Canada, is a nobleman who has had a very considerable experience in one of the most important deliberative bodies in the world. He has also been a member of the British Cabinet and, no doubt, during the period in which he has been a member of the House of Lords and a member also of the Cabinet, he has so educated himself on constitutional law that it will be of substantial aid and service to him in the discharge of his duties in this country. Following, as has been observed by both the preceding speakers, two gentlemen who have been somewhat distinguished, who at all events, since the days of Lord Elgin can be fairly singled out as having taken a deeper interest in the affairs of this country than any others who were intrusted with the Government of Canada in the intervening period, I have myself but little doubt that Lord Lansdowne will be an equal success. He has been but a short time among us but in that short period he has had the oppor-

tunity of giving expression to his views at two or three points. He seemed on all occasions to have struck the key-note. The universal verdict of the press and of the people of Canada, so far as we have been able to judge, has been that His Lordship seems disposed to take a deep interest in the affairs of Canada, and that he desires to thoroughly understand and appreciate the spirit of our institutions. Entering upon his task with such feelings there can be no other sentiment than that he will indeed be a successful Governor, quite as much so as either of the gentlemen who preceded him.

I now come to a paragraph in the Address which rather challenges criticism, more particularly of those who take different views of the fiscal policy of the Government. We are asked to rejoice that although there were some slight impediments, in the way of a bad harvest and a little over-trading, that the general condition of the Dominion is such as to fully justify His Excellency in congratulating us upon our prosperity. That is a statement that will not meet with the entire approval of the people of this country. It is admitted in the first instance that there has been some over-trading. Now to what is over-trading due? It is clearly and unmistakably due to the stimulating of the several manufactures and trades in the Dominion by the policy adopted in 1879. At that time the people of this country were told to put on all sail. The sugar manufacturers were told to multiply the refineries, and the cotton men to enlarge their premises, that there was ample room for more. The increase in those factories, at all events so far as those two trades are concerned, caused over-trading. The Government are directly responsible for it; they invited the people to invest their money in enterprises of that kind in the hope that they would be profitable, and they were told to put on all sail. Now it is assumed—and this may be a very proper occasion to question the correctness of the assumption—that the prosperity, which no doubt did mark the years 1880, 1881 and 1882, was due in some degree to the fiscal policy of the Government, to their having increased the duties and having adopted a higher tariff. That I deny. The wealth that flowed into Canada during those three years can be