

gratulations, Mr. Speaker, are indeed well due to the men who governed the destinies of our country during the last 15 years. As stated by the hon. member who moved the resolutions of the Address, that policy which has entitled the present Government to the congratulations of His Excellency has made our country a prosperous country. It is that policy that has caused our country to grow and progress, during that period of the last fifteen years, more than any country in the world. We have but to throw a glance around us to see what progress has been made. We have but to look into the statistics of last year to be convinced of it. Thus, our external trade which, in 1891, was valued at \$218,000,000 reached, in 1892, the enormous figure of \$230,000,000. And that external trade was not wholly carried on with the United States, for we exported to Great Britain upwards of \$64,000,000. Well, Mr. Speaker, we were right, therefore, when we claimed and when we still claim that we have for our trade other outlets than the market of the great neighbouring republic. Our exports to the English markets were chiefly agricultural produce. Farming benefited by it, and it is shown by statistical records that the exports of butter, cheese, wood and agricultural implements to the English markets were larger than to the United States and every other country. Well then, Mr. Speaker, I say that through the policy of the Conservative Government, the farming interest made great strides in the way to progress. I represent here a largely agricultural country, and I must say to this Honourable House that if I was returned unopposed, I did not quite owe it to my personal merit, but to the fact that that county so much benefited by the National Policy that the farmers of that county, Liberal as well as Conservative, did not wish me to have any opposition, they were everyone of them in favour of the Government's candidate. Now the Conservative policy again contributed to the development of the country by the building of railways. If we look into the statistics, we find that in 1875 we had but some 4,800 miles of railway, whilst in 1891, that figure reached 14,000 miles. And that encouragement to the development of railways, these subsidies to railways were voted in no partial way; in fact, we find that in every county where roads were needed so as to help to the colonization, railways were built. I can quote as an instance my own county, which is now run through by a very extended railway. The Conservative policy not only promoted the growth of the country by the building of railways, but it is also owing to the National Policy that Canada became an industrial country, that the industrial establishments have increased in number, grown up and rose to the extent of solidity and wealth which they now enjoy. They were put up and have thus grown up through the National Policy. In 1881, we had but 49,000 industrial establishments in the country; these

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industrial establishments only paid at that time the sum of \$59,000,000 in wages. Now we have 75,000 establishments of that kind, and these establishments have come to pay the sum of \$99,000,000 in wages. Thus it can be seen that this policy is beneficial to all classes, that the working classes like the rest profit by it and are favoured by the results of that truly national policy. I have no doubt but that, with as wise an administration as the one we have, the country will continue its forward course in the way to progress in which it has entered. Mr. Speaker, this honourable House will be much gratified to learn, I am sure, that the Government have worked with earnestness and that they have given a great deal of attention to the immigration question in the interest of the North-west Territories. This immigration policy had the effect of causing a large number of families to come from Europe, and these families have settled on lands in the North-west. These properties have become so many homesteads, that is to say, these properties will be transmitted from father to son, from family to family and will become truly patrimonial estates. We ought to be gratified by this. But this immigration policy not only had this beneficial result, it also brought into these Territories quite a number of our compatriots, who, through want of means of support, were compelled to go away from their native land. Quite a number, I say, of our compatriots have come back and settled amongst us with the fixed determination never to leave again. For this the Government are entitled to our congratulations, and the House ought to feel gratified that they have worked upon that line. Now, Mr. Speaker, reference is made in the Speech from the Throne to the existing relations between our country and the American republic. We are bound by the geographical position of our country to have, as far as possible, but friendly relations with our neighbours. I have no doubt but that these relations are and will remain friendly; however, as regards the disputes which might exist between the two Governments, I think, and this House will share in my statement, that our Government will be equal to the task of protecting our rights. I rely with full confidence in the ability of the present Government. We also find that the Government have established a Department of Trade. In so doing, the Government rendered a real service to the country. With trade rests the prosperity of a country; with trade rests the happiness and the growth of a country. A country with a prosperous trade is never taken unawares. Therefore, this House, I feel satisfied, will be pleased to find that a special department was established with the object of looking into the trade interests. Some speakers and some newspapers are found who have stated in words and in print that there cannot be but disunion between the various races and the various denominations.