

gentleman who moved the Address paid to His Excellency the Governor General. Sir, it is a pleasure to state that ever since Confederation Canada has been eminently fortunate in the selection made by the Imperial Government of those who were to represent in this House the Majesty of the Throne, and to preside over our destinies. One and all of our Governors have been men of distinguished though different merits; and one and all have left this country and carried with them into their new spheres of usefulness, the respect of the Canadian people, and, in some instances, the affection, I may say, the deep affection of the Canadian people. Lord Lisgar, our first Governor, was a man of sound judgment and conciliatory disposition, and, therefore, well fitted to render, as he did render, valuable services at a most critical period of our history. Of his successor, Lord Dufferin, it is useless to speak. His name is familiar, not only in this country, not only throughout the British Empire, but throughout the world wherever the English language is spoken. His successor, Lord Lorne, was also very popular among us; and it is impossible to mention the name of Lord Lorne without at the same time mentioning the name of his gracious consort, the Princess Louise, to whose presence among us, no doubt, Lord Lorne himself would admit, was due a good deal of his popularity. Her Royal Highness, while she was a resident of Canada, exhibited very many of those womanly virtues and qualities which have made the name of her Royal mother dear, not only to her subjects, but to all those in any quarter of the globe who appreciate womanly qualities and virtues, appreciable everywhere indeed, and especially so when found in so exalted a station. The course of Lord Lansdowne was not only popular, not only unimpeachable, but marked, it is only fair to him to say, with qualities of the higher order. Now, His Excellency Lord Stanley of Preston comes to us, bearing one of the greatest historical names of England. The name of Stanley is to be found on almost every page of English history amongst warriors and statesmen, and nowhere shining more conspicuously than in our own day, when proudly borne by the great Earl of Derby, whose eloquence has long held sovereign sway over both Houses of Parliament. It has been the privilege of His Excellency to be engaged from early life in the public service, and it is therefore an easy task for him to adapt himself to any position to which he may be called by the choice of Her Majesty; and it is in no spirit of fulsome flattery, but with entire truthfulness, that I cheerfully say that in the few months that His Excellency has been with us, he has already exhibited qualities of mind and heart which have won for him the respect and the sympathy of the Canadian people of all classes, nationalities and religions. But now, Sir, having said so much, it is my sad duty, I must say, and my unpleasant duty, to leave these topics and to come to the hard and dry matter of the Speech. I am sure the right hon. gentleman will agree with me when I repeat the usual expression that he has presented us with a very "meagre bill of fare." I have heard the expression before; but it is, perhaps, even more meagre than usual. Of this, however, I do not complain, because I believe that Canada to-day is in a position where she requires very few reforms of immediate application, save the great reform of the extension of our trade with the great and powerful nation to the south of us. In all candor, Sir, I must say that I did not expect even that measure of reform in the Speech, but I do not despair—and I say this in all candor also—I do not despair of seeing the right hon. gentleman some day a convert to that idea. It is not expecting too much either, that some day or other he will see more clearly, and that this great reform will press itself upon his attention, and that he will relieve us from the duty and the pleasure of putting it upon the Statute-book. But, Mr. Speaker, if I did not expect that reform to be announced in the Speech from the Throne, I did expect to see other

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reforms announced, and I am disappointed on account of their absence. I expected to see some of that long promised legislation in favor of the workingmen. We have been looking for it, not one year, not two years, but three years. It has been put off from to-day until to-morrow, and from to-morrow until the next day; and this year again it is put off until to-morrow. We had reason to expect something better. It is true that in the Speech there is an allusion made to a commission which has been investigating the wrongs of the workingmen—which, indeed, are visible to the naked eye, and which we, on this side of the House, could remedy, I am sure, without any commission, if we had the power. Reference has been made to that commission, and we are led to expect a report at no distant day. But, Sir, is it possible that this commission is also affected with the disease of procrastination, too prevalent in the present Government of Canada? Is it possible that the report of the commission which was to be ready to-day is to be postponed till to-morrow? The remarks which fell from the hon. member for Montreal East (Mr. Lepire), would lead us almost to infer something of the kind, because, from a remark that fell from his lips, I find that the Government are overwhelmed with the great constitutional difficulties which attend legislating for the workingman. Well, Sir, I say we had reason to expect something better; and from a special circumstance which took place lately in the province to which I belong, I had reason, when I came here—I have such implicit confidence in the press of hon. gentlemen opposite, which is understood to speak the truth, and of course always the views of hon. gentlemen opposite—to expect that we should have such legislation. Sir, some time ago—not very remote, not two weeks ago—there was an election in the good county of Joliette, and one of the organs of the Government, *Le Canada*, published in Quebec, under the heading "Joliette Election," stated as follows on 19th September:—

"The two parties in this county are in the field, the county having been opened by the unseating of Mr. Guilbault, the Federal member. Mr. Guilbault is the Government candidate again, and his old opponent, Mr. Neveu, is the Liberal candidate. The election will take place at an early date. The contest will be sharp on both sides, Mr. Guilbault having been elected at the last election only by the casting vote of the returning officer. It is, however, said that the chances of Mr. Guilbault are much more favorable now that the Federal Government have favored this county with several important works—namely, a post office."

But, Mr. Speaker, was there not also a post office in Haldimand? It is astonishing the importance which the institution of post offices has assumed at the present time. Then this paper goes on to say:

"Mr. Lepine is to address a meeting of the workingmen of Joliette on Thursday next, and it is probable that all the workingmen will support the candidate of the Conservative party as they did in Montreal East. As the Government is to propose at the next Session several measures in the interest of the working classes, it is reasonable to suppose that the workingmen will support the Conservative candidate."

I took it for granted, Mr. Speaker, when I saw this announcement in the organ of the Government that we would have such measures proposed this Session in favor of the workingmen. But the wily workingmen of Joliette saw, and had good reason to believe, as the event now shows, that promises made to-day would be violated to-morrow, and they decided not to wait till to-morrow to vote against the Government, but voted against them at once. There is another measure, and the reform which I expected to find announced in the Speech from the Throne. I am sure the mercantile community at large will be disappointed to observe that no measure is to be introduced this Session by the Government to amend the Customs Act. The manner in which the Customs Act has been administered, not, I am sure through any fault of the Minister in charge, but on account of the provisions of that Act, is such as to incite revolt in the commercial community. What do we see? We find that, last year, almost \$100,000—to be precise, something over \$98,000—were levied upon the commer-