

regret to say, is not very often. The hon. gentleman possesses sound judgment, and on the committees of the House his opinion is always looked up to with great consideration and respect. I join most cordially with both hon. gentlemen in all they have said in reference to His Excellency the Governor General, and in according to him as warm a welcome as it is possible for us to give when he has assumed the position of the Governor General of the Dominion of Canada. His Excellency comes from a distinguished family, whose ancestors served the State, both in Scotland and in England. They occupied very high positions. His Excellency comes to us under circumstances that are somewhat peculiar and different from those which attended his predecessors, making his advent to Canada one of much greater interest to the Canadian people than has been usual in the selection of his predecessors. In the past, the position of Governor General in this country has rather been regarded as a stepping-stone to advancement, than as the ultimate ambition of English statesmen. The late Lord Elgin went from Canada to India. Lord Lansdowne did the same; after serving a term in this country he was appointed Viceroy to India. Lord Dufferin likewise followed in the same path, and subsequently occupied very high and distinguished positions in the diplomatic service. With Lord Aberdeen it has been somewhat different. He was selected some six years ago to fill the first position under the Crown of Great Britain in a representative capacity—that of Viceroy to Ireland. We all know that he conducted himself there with such success and such tact that he not only softened the hearts of the Irish people towards the British Crown, but he and Lady Aberdeen endeared themselves to the people by the very great interest they took in all that tends to the amelioration of the people of any country. His departure from Dublin Castle was marked with an event which indicates the success which attended his administration. I believe the bands of the national societies had not played “God save the Queen” for many years before, but they played it on the occasion of the departure of Lord Aberdeen from Dublin. It is only an indication of what tact and sympathy with the people he was called to preside over can accomplish. These characteristics are possessed by our present Governor General. As has been very happily observed by the hon. gentle-

man who moved these resolutions, His Excellency took an interest in Canada long before his name was connected with it in an official character. He manifested his appreciation of the future of Canada by investing his money in it. At that time there was a general expression of opinion that he might possibly be the next Governor General, and the hope was heralded forth through the country that Mr. Gladstone might possibly select him and that if he did so the Canadian people would welcome his choice. Having said that much, I part company, to some extent, with the hon. gentlemen who moved and seconded the address. I think it would have been only due to Parliament had the Government explained why we were not called together at an earlier date. Recently there has been an unwritten agreement that Parliament should be called together about the beginning of February each year. It would be found more convenient for business men to leave Ottawa before the middle of May or the beginning of June. This year, if we have the usual session, it may be extended to the end of June, or possibly the beginning of July. I think Parliament was entitled to some explanation from the Government of the reason for the extraordinary delay in summoning the House.

The next paragraph of the Address refers to the gratifying fact that the volume of trade last year exceeded that of any year in the history of the Dominion. I do not think it anything very wonderful that a country possessing the elements of greatness that Canada has and such wealth of resources should increase in trade as the years go by. The increase has not been at all commensurate with the circumstances of the country. I looked up the figures while my honourable friend was speaking on that point, and it did not occur to me that the growth and development were of that magnitude that he would lead us to believe. I find that so far as our exports go, the export of the products of the mine was less than it was the preceding year and the year before—that the export of the products of our fisheries was less than it was the preceding year and the year before. Our forests gave a considerable part of the increase. The exports of the products of the forest rose from \$22,000,000 to \$26,000,000. The export of animals (the products of the farm) rose from \$28,000,000 to \$31,000,000 between 1892 and 1893. So far as other sources of agricultural wealth