

members of the Cabinet. I have nothing more to say, hon. gentlemen, except to congratulate the government on the fact that the period of suspense which has lasted for some twelve days has at length happily terminated.

THE ADDRESS.

MOTION.

The Order of the Day having been called

Consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's, speech at the opening of the sixth session of Parliament.

Hon. Mr. OWENS said—While I fully appreciate the honour conferred upon me in calling upon me to move the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, I only regret that one more experienced and more able than myself had not been selected. The Premier in choosing a most humble supporter of the government in this House, has given evidence of his faith in the policy of the government and confidence in the wisdom of the measure to be submitted for the approval of the Senate during the present session. I will ask the indulgence of the House for a few moments while I briefly glance over the subjects referred to in the Speech from the Throne. Reference is made to the bountiful harvest with which Canada has been so specially blessed during the past year, and for which we have cause to be thankful throughout the Dominion. It is fair to assume that the righteous administration of the government has done much to influence the Giver of all good to pour down this blessing upon this Dominion of ours and favour us with the most bountiful harvest in the history of our country. I am able further to apply the same principle to our trade and commerce. While other countries have seen their trade and commerce paralyzed by the recent crisis and their banking and financial institutions passed in to the hands of receivers, Canada has been steadily moving onward. Her exports, the true index to the prosperity of the country, have been increasing year by year to such an extent as to call forth the admiration of the world at large, and if Canada occupies the proud position she does in the world commercially, it is due in no small degree to the trade policy of the government, that national policy which has done so much to tide Canada over the late crisis and establish

confidence in her people, in their ability to produce and to manufacture, not only for our own people, but to compete successfully for the trade of the world at large. Reference is also made to the extension of mining enterprises in Canada, and more particularly in British Columbia. It is evident that our mining resources only require development to demonstrate the fact that our mines are amongst the richest in the world, that they are practically inexhaustible, and in the near future will become a source of revenue and wealth to the country. We are pleased to notice the reference to the Indian reservations and to the Indian industrial schools. The Indian problem is a difficult one to deal with and we should feel grateful for the success attending the policy of our government in reference to the Indians, which is in marked contrast with that of other countries. The result of it is that our Indians are comparatively happy and among the most loyal of Her Majesty's subjects. Allusion is made to the North-west Mounted Police and to their valuable services, which are indispensable in that portion of our Dominion. I have reason to hope that any measure that may be brought down for the better maintenance of that body and also for the better arming and advancement of our militia will receive from this House the cordial support to which it is entitled. Reference is also made to the Manitoba school question. While it is a matter of regret that this matter should have been brought within the arena of federal politics, I have reason to hope that the election which takes place to-day will result in a measure being passed by the legislature of that province which will render unnecessary any legislation here. But, should it be otherwise, the policy of the government has been well defined and will follow closely in the lines laid down by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, the highest tribunal in the empire. We are gratified to learn that the Imperial authorities have under consideration a proposal to connect Canada with Australia by means of a Pacific cable. This will, no doubt, tend largely to increase the trade between the two countries, and also to draw closer to each other and the mother country the outlying portions of the British empire. We also are gratified to learn that, acting upon the suggestion of our government, the Imperial authorities have expressed their