

all classes expressing sorrow and regret for Her Majesty and the Prince of Wales in their sad bereavement. I understand that it is possible the Prince of Wales may pay a visit to Canada next year. I can only express the hope that such may prove to be true, for I feel sure that he will receive a warm welcome from one end of the Dominion to the other should he come amongst us. I see a clause in the Address that :

"In accordance with the promise given at the close of last session, a commission has been issued to investigate the working of the Civil Service Act, and other matters connected with the Civil Service generally. The report of this commission will be laid before you during the present session."

Now, hon. gentlemen, I feel that this is a very important clause. I feel that the question presented to us in the Address is a very important one, and that we will all look forward with interest to the report that is to be brought down of the Civil Service Commission appointed last year, and I desire to take this opportunity to refer to the scandals that were exposed in the Civil Service last session. As a Conservative I have much pleasure in congratulating our hon. leader upon the recent political successes his Government have met with at the polls. I regard the victories, however, rather as a response to the resolution of loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, which was unanimously adopted by the Parliament of Canada, a loyalty which the Hon. Mr. Blake clearly pointed out was threatened by the commercial policy of the Liberal party, as a policy that would gradually alienate the allegiance of the people of Canada from the British Crown, and be the signal for the disintegration of the British Empire. I also regard it as an endorsement of the policy of the Conservative party as compared with the policy of the Liberal party. I must warn the hon. leader of the Government that the issue has yet to be put to the people of Canada whether the revelations of last session are to be condemned or not. As a Canadian, I must express my regret in consequence of the failure of the Government to reconstruct itself upon lines that would be a pledge that boodling would be at an end. We all realize that last session exposed a series of offences against the country's welfare, and we all know that it caused an hon. member to

resign his position as a Minister of the Crown after forty years of public service. According to my view, the hon. Minister was more the victim of an organized system of raising money for election purposes out of the resources of the people at large in order to strengthen the Government in their possession of the treasury benches than deserving of being singled out as being a system for which he alone was responsible, and that if his resignation was necessary to purify the political atmosphere, it became necessary for the hon. leader of the Government to so reconstruct his Government that an effectual guarantee would be presented to the people that the dangers that threaten the country by immoral political methods would cease. Such a reconstruction, according to the opinion of many of the people of Canada, has not been effected, and I feel it my duty to declare at this early stage of the session that the Government of which our hon. leader in this House is First Minister will receive my opposition. My party friends, I know, will not accuse me of deserting a sinking ship or behaving in a treacherous manner, for the bye-elections have strengthened the hands of the Government to such an extent that in the interests of good government a more vigorous opposition is needed. I may be accused of instituting an opposition from the safe retreat of this honourable House, which might lay me open to the charge of selfishness and temerity, but when the constituency is divided in the county of Marquette, where I reside, a division which the census entitles us to, I am quite ready to resign my position here and trust myself in the hands of the people if they think I can serve them better in the House of Commons than in this honourable House. It is not an idea of the moment that has caused me to take this step, for I wrote to the late Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald a letter, for which he thanked me, and I told him that many people regarded with alarm the increasing use of money in the election campaigns, and that I hoped he would be able to effect a change in a system that was demoralizing the country. I did not fail to impress upon our hon. leader, who succeeded him the necessity of selecting men to assist him, irrespective of party, that the moral balance of the people might be restored, and that the trade of the country might be relieved from some of the burdens