

him their share of his time and attention, and that under our constitutional system, the good administration of a city was as essential to its progress as the efficient and honest government of the country was inherent to its welfare.

He therefore took an active interest in the civic affairs of his native city and his integrity and ability soon won for him the first place, and he was elected mayor of Toronto. In this House, the conscientious study of public and private legislation submitted for the consideration of the members, his recognized impartiality, proverbial urbanity and above all his well equipped mind by abundant reading designated him here also for the highest position in this chamber. Those of the hon. members over whom he ruled as president of the Senate are unanimous in recognizing that no one filled the presidential chair with more tact, kindness and impartiality.

In this House the hon. Secretary of State told us yesterday that if the Senate had been left to choose a speaker, Mr. Allan would have been unanimously elected to fill the presidential chair. His conscientious study of all public and private legislation, submitted to the consideration of the members, his proverbial urbanity and, above all, a mind well equipped with abundant reading, qualified him for this high honour. I know that his tall and slender, yet stately figure will always be seen hovering in these halls in the memory of those with whom he worked so long, and I know that in after years, when their eyes will be dimmed by age perhaps he may be slightly forgotten, but visitors coming to these halls for years to come will still see the dignified and familiar features of our past president in that historical gallery which surrounds this chamber.

Hon. Mr. PERLEY—It is quite a departure from my usual custom to make any remarks at so early a stage of the session as the debate on the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, but I feel on this occasion that I would be derelict in my duty and also untrue to the people whose representative I am here, if I did not call the attention of parliament and the government to a matter of very considerable importance to the people of the Canadian North-west Territories. I am referring in this connection

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN.

to the shortage in our transportation facilities in that country. I do not do it in a hostile spirit. I do not wish to find any fault, because I think there is hardly any fault to be found, although a man would be hardly safe in saying that in some sections of the North-west Territories where the farmers have hundreds of loads of wheat at the station and cannot get it to market. They would incline to the opinion that there was some great fault, and that that fault was with the government and the Canadian Pacific Railway, because the Canadian Pacific Railway cannot find cars to transport their grain to its ultimate destination. I might say in this connection that there is a striking contrast between the conditions of to-day and those which existed when the government was endeavouring to get the money granted for the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. PERLEY—It is quite within the memories of hon. gentlemen in this House that there were great doubts as regards the utility of the North-west Territories. One very great man, perhaps the most eminent man in the opposition ranks, the Hon. Edward Blake, announced when the money was being sought to build that road, that the freight of that country would not be sufficient to pay for the grease for the axles on the cars taking it out. Now, a different state of things has arisen. We have not at present the axles to put grease on. We require more axles to put the grease on. They have not greased them, however, and they are not getting the grain out of the country. We have from the last few years acquired a knowledge in the western country, of how to till the soil. In the earlier history of the country we did not understand how and when to plough, we did not understand how to prepare for the next year's operations and we had many failures, but those failures were not the fault of the climate nor of the soil. The failure was the fault of the people. We were all from eastern Canada, and the farmers did not understand how to apply their work to Canadian North-west soil. We were unable to plough and work in the manner that we should. The government of that day established an experimental farm,