

I may be permitted to say that while I could not follow, as I should have liked to follow, the remarks of my hon. friend who moved the address, there were one or two points to which he referred in the French version of his speech that he did not mention when he spoke in English, and one of them particularly was increased subsidies to the provinces. I think I am correct in saying that he referred to that subject and that he did not wish the provinces to occupy the position of Lazarus who fed on the crumbs from the rich man's table. My own view of that matter is, and I think you will find it the view of the country, except of those who want it, that the continued application on the part of the provinces for further aid and subsidies from the Dominion to cover their outrageous extravagance will ultimately place the Dominion in an unfortunate position. The provinces should learn to keep within their income and, if it be necessary to make larger expenditures, let them tax the people to obtain the revenue. The Dominion assumes the responsibility altogether of Dominion works, and the money has to be divided for that purpose, but we should not listen to demands from the provinces for larger subsidies to meet their extravagant expenditures. If they cannot keep within their income, let them do as the municipalities do when they incur extraordinary expenditures—provide the money by taxing the people. By direct taxation the people will know how their money is being spent and how to appreciate the governing bodies that impose the taxation.

I am in accord with the hon. gentlemen who hope that this will be a short session. If we are to accept the premier's declaration, we will be through in time to attend the sugaring off of the sugar bushes.

Hon. Mr. DeBOUCHERVILLE—And get the sugar plum.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—We shall all be glad if we can leave in time to partake, as my hon. friend says, of the sugar plums. We had a long session last year—unnecessarily long—and as we have a very meagre bill of fare this time, we should get through as rapidly as possible in order that we may return to our homes and visit the sugar bushes and get the sugar plums to which my hon. friend refers.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—It is very gratifying to my colleagues and myself to hear the complimentary remarks that the hon. gentleman expressed, as a preface to his speech, on the selection of you, Mr. Speaker, to preside in this chamber. I am sure that we all concur in the observations he made that the duties of the office will be discharged with dignity, courtesy and impartiality. Hon. gentlemen, I am sure, concur in the complimentary allusions also that he made on the speeches of the mover and seconder of the address. It is not often that the task allotted to gentlemen in that position has been so well discharged. The hon. gentleman who moved the answer to the speech has been in this chamber now for two or three sessions, and his utterances have always been listened to with very great respect. He addresses the House with a degree of candour and fairness that invariably commends his observations to the just judgment of the House. The hon. gentleman who seconded the address is one who has more recently been introduced into this chamber. He became a member of the Senate towards the end of last session. In the utterances that he has from time to time favoured us with, evidence was given that he was a gentleman of large mental capacity, who speaks with a very great knowledge of the subjects he undertakes to discuss, and who, I feel satisfied, will be regarded as a valuable addition to the members of this chamber.

I have no complaint to make of the observations of my hon. friend in his criticism of the speech. It has been very fairly carried out: perhaps it was because there was so little to challenge criticism. Under our constitutional system of government, the practice has been, in speeches of this kind, to follow the lines of least resistance, to introduce those paragraphs which will create the least controversy, and I think we have succeeded very well in the present speech that His Excellency delivered on Thursday last. The first two paragraphs are those which are personal to His Excellency the Governor General. He came to Canada not as a stranger, having visited us once before, perhaps on two occasions. He came with a full knowledge of the great resources which Canada possesses and with a full knowledge of the loyalty that pervades the Dominion towards the mother