

give them such co-operation and assistance as new members have a right to expect, and we hope that their ambitions for usefulness in this assembly will all be amply fulfilled.

I should especially mention the new lady member who takes her place among us (Hon. Senator Fallis). We all welcome her, and we all hope she will enjoy her activity with us.

It does not seem to me quite in order that I should follow the beaten path and extend congratulations to the mover and the seconder of the Address. Such congratulations are befitting when, according to the usual course, the task of moving and seconding the Address is allotted to new members of our House. Both the honourable senator from Lethbridge (Hon. Mr. Buchanan) and the honourable senator from Mille Isles (Hon. Mr. Prévost) are parliamentarians of long standing and experience and have enjoyed for many years the respect of their fellows, both in the Commons when they were there, and in this Chamber. All I need say is, they have vindicated fully the high regard in which we held them.

I was interested indeed in the review of Western conditions by the honourable senator from Lethbridge. He opened his remarks by observing that he intended to speak of some subjects of importance which might or might not be within the four corners of the Speech from the Throne. I can assure the honourable senator that if his mind revolves around any subject of major importance the inevitable conclusion must be that it is not in the Speech from the Throne. Any Speech from the Throne which finds room for a reference to a little commission enquiring into the stopping of a mill, which indeed makes it the subject of its longest paragraph, will have no space left for those great problems that trouble the minds of statesmen and perhaps disturb the peace of the world. Subjects which the honourable senator from Lethbridge reviewed were indeed of interest to everyone. It was especially gratifying to hear him recall the fidelity with which municipalities and other institutions in our Western land have stood by the faith in matters of finance, and how formidably they have battled against every discouragement that could present itself—visitations of nature, drought, rust, grasshoppers—about all that one would think could be forced upon a suffering people. But default is still far from being prevalent in Western Canada, and all this Dominion knows that there resides in the people of that country a determination to maintain its good name; and I can assure the honourable senator that

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN.

we in Ontario are throwing no stones at Western Canada.

I want to come to a short consideration of some features of the Speech. It is exceedingly brief. I do not know that it is any the worse for that. We have had heavily laden speeches from the Throne at some of our sessions. We have had exceedingly energetic government in Canada for some years past. If indeed there has been error in respect of force, vigour and fertility of administration, the late Government erred on the side of over-energy. So it is not entirely with disappointment that we find a disposition to sail for a moment with the wind and to enjoy moving along under the momentum of the past.

But this Speech from the Throne is not only brief; it is vacuous. Not only is it short, but matters discussed are in the main trivial in so far as there is any presentation of intention to legislate. I call attention at the moment to a paragraph that struck me as somewhat interesting, and especially to a word which seemed to me to have deep significance:

It is proposed to restore to Parliament its control over taxation and expenditure by ending all measures which have deprived members of the House of Commons of this control, and which have served to invest the Executive with unwarranted arbitrary powers.

One notes particularly that word "ending." When a Speech from the Throne advises Parliament of the intention of the Administration to repeal legislation, it says that measures "repealing" will be introduced. However, what is foreshadowed here is not repeal, but ending. I wonder if honourable members have reflected on what must have revolved in the mind of the draftsman of this Speech from the Throne when he chose "ending" instead of "repealing." If "repealing" had been used there would have to be legislation for the purpose, and we should look forward curiously to what it would be. But the draftsman, knowing there was no legislation to repeal, decided that "ending" would be less perilous, and thus this word was chosen.

What is this legislation which has deprived the House of Commons of its control over taxation and expenditure—this legislation which is going to be ended? It is fortunate for this House that the leader of the Government here (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) will follow me, and will have an opportunity of detailing to the Senate of Canada just what legislation we were foolish enough to pass which stripped Parliament of this power.