

and of which the House has been informed by report from the Clerk to the Speaker of the Hon. Mr. Masson. I had the pleasure of being in the cabinet with Mr. Masson for a number of years. I sat in parliament with him in the Commons and also in this House. I do not desire to say much about him, but I must say this, that a more honest and conscientious man never sat in parliament, nor did ever a public man do his duty to his country more faithfully than did the Hon. Mr. Masson. That is the reputation he holds amongst those with whom he has been associated, though not politically allied. When I look at the rapid changes which are taking place we may expect soon to make way for others. I felt it my duty, in commencing the few remarks I have to make to the Senate, to refer to those friends I have mentioned with whom I have been so long associated personally and politically, and I cannot help repeating the old adage, 'what shadows we are and what shadows we pursue.'

The address which we are called upon to consider for a very short time is not, to my mind, of that character which has been so ably and eloquently claimed for it by my hon. friend from Rideau (Mr. Frost) if I may so term him at present. Before proceeding he will permit me to congratulate him on his first effort in this House. After hearing his speech I thought there was little reason for his apology. No matter what his experience may have been in the past, he certainly exhibited none of that diffidence which he claimed for himself in the speech which he made. If there was one thing that made an impression upon my mind stronger than any other, it was the assertion made by him, that the present premier, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, had rediscovered Canada. I was under the impression that Canada had been discovered long ago. I remember the late Mr. Mercier claiming, and his party claimed for him the discovery of Lake St. John. That is when they were building a road there which we so liberally subsidized. Then we have the premier of Canada who also claims to have discovered New Ontario. Well, that is not all. Now we have the assertion and statement made by my hon. friend that the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier has rediscovered Canada. I do not know whether the hon. gentleman has read Park-

man's history. I know I read it with a very great deal of pleasure, and was under the impression that Cabot and Cartier had something to do with the discovery of Canada, and if he will read the accounts of the suffering of the Jesuits when they were travelling through the whole country even as far westward as the Mississippi he will find that not only were Ontario, the Lake St. John district and the northern portion of this continent discovered, but also the western regions as far west as the Mississippi and down that river to New Orleans and to the very gulf, but I am quite willing to give these gentlemen credit for all they have done, and if anything has been done by them which has added to the prosperity of the country, I should be the last to detract from the credit which is due to them. I must apologize to the hon. gentleman who seconded the motion for not being able to criticise or pass an opinion upon the manner in which he seconded the motion, for the simple reason that I do not understand his language sufficiently well to appreciate the points which evidently he made, from the applause which came from three or four gentlemen sitting opposite me. I take it for granted at least, though I could not properly understand it, that they not only understood but appreciated all that he said and rendered him that applause which a man who speaks in accordance with their own sentiment deserves. I am fully in accord with everything the hon. gentleman who moved the address said in reference to the prosperity of the country, less that praise which he accorded the present government. I am not aware that the present government had anything to do with the sunshine, with the genial showers with which the country was blessed, particularly in the North-west. However, I suppose as the gentlemen have rediscovered the country, probably they have the power of bringing down rain from the clouds and invoking the Divine aid in producing the crops that we have reaped. If we have prosperity in this country it is owing to the climate, and it is owing to the rains and other causes to which I have very briefly referred. I remember very well when on our side of the house we used to claim some of the credit for the prosperity of the country that existed after we came into power in 1878. At that time the whole policy of