

que je sais que dans un pays mixte comme le nôtre tout le monde, s'il ne le parle pas, comprend du moins le français. En Angleterre les classes instruites le parlent avec une pureté qu'on peut leur envier et cependant ce n'est pas la langue officielle. Au Canada le français est la langue officielle et il me fait plaisir d'exercer un droit quand je sais que c'est précisément à cause de ma nationalité que j'ai eu l'honneur d'être demandé à proposer la réponse à l'adresse.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (P.E.I.)—I regret that illness has prevented my junior confrere, the hon. Senator from Lindsay, Ontario, who was recently appointed to the Senate, from discharging the duty devolving upon him, according to parliamentary practice, of seconding the motion which my hon. friend from Stadacona has just introduced. I regret his absence, as he is thus debarred from the honour which would have been his had he been able to avail himself of his privilege, and thus stepped at once into the fore front of debate. I may also well regret it on your account, hon. gentlemen, that you are deprived of the pleasure which would have been yours had the duty remained in more competent hands, and I crave your kind indulgence while I refer as briefly as possible to some of the points brought to our notice in the speech with which His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to open this session of the Parliament of the Dominion. The death of His Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence in the early years of his manhood, just at the time when he was about to be united in the bonds of matrimony with the noble lady to whom he had given the love of his young heart, called forth one general wail of sorrow from all classes throughout the Dominion. From the mansion of the wealthy citizen; from the household of the mechanic; from the cabin of the hardy fisherman down by the sea; from the fireside of the pioneer on the distant prairie; from all alike came but one expression, that of profound regret for the loss sustained by Her Majesty, by the bereaved Royal parents and the afflicted lady who was so suddenly deprived of him with whom she anticipated sharing the joys and sorrows of her life. This universal sorrow, evinced alike by all classes of Canadians, shows that within their breasts there is a warm feeling of love and attachment to British Institutions, to the mother country,

and to the person of the Queen, who has so long and happily ruled over us. His Excellency was pleased to congratulate the members on the general prosperity of the Dominion and upon the abundant harvest with which Providence has blessed the country. Hon. gentlemen will agree with us that we have reason to rejoice in the abundant return which has rewarded the toil of the husbandman, for the Dominion has this year produced one of the most magnificent crops which we have ever had any record of. While in isolated cases there may have been a partial failure of some one article, as with the potato crop in some sections of the Maritime Provinces, that loss was compensated by the more generous yield of other articles. In the older Provinces, as in the North-West and Manitoba, the crops have exceeded our most sanguine expectations, and with all the great resources of the Canadian Pacific Railway, which was able before the close of the navigation to move upwards of 10,000,000 bushels of wheat out of that new country and place it on the market, that quantity is still less than one-fifth of the marketable production of that fertile region, according to the best information I have been able to obtain. In proof of the progress of the country, let me direct the attention of your honours for a few moments to the trade reports of the past seven months of the fiscal year, and compare them with the corresponding period of the preceding one. In the seven months ending 1st February, 1891, our exports of agricultural productions amounted to \$9,156,943, while this year they were \$15,399,792, an increase of \$6,242,859, or about 66 per cent. Then in animals exported for the same period, you will find another indication of increased wealth: the amount has gone up from \$20,066,580 to \$21,707,620, a further increase under this head of \$1,641,040. It would seem from these figures that the McKinley tariff has not affected the farming interest to any alarming extent, and that instead of crippling our business, or the productions of the labours of the husbandman, the statistics of our export trade indicate that that branch has expanded during the past few months in a somewhat remarkable ratio, as compared with the previous term. This expansion of the trade of the Dominion is not confined to agricultural productions or to stock alone. The mines have also increased their output, as the exports prove.