

those who have known me and have been looking forward to the time when a practical farmer should be at the head of the Department of Agriculture in our Government, are now expecting great things of me, and I always dread lest I should not come up to their anticipations. I know that there is a great deal to be done in this country to develop the different branches of agriculture, and I assure you that my earnest endeavor will be to fulfil the duties of my Department in such a manner that when I do give up the keys of office and leave the position I now hold I shall at any rate have the satisfaction of being able to say that during my term I did something for the advancement and development of agriculture in the Dominion. I have been once or twice before in this neighborhood. I know it to be one of the best cultivated, one of the most advanced and progressive parts of the Province of Quebec, and I was very glad indeed when I heard that the Association had decided to hold here its annual meeting. I knew that we would receive a cordial welcome and that those who took part in our discussions would have the pleasure of addressing good audiences. I am glad to see that my anticipations were more than realized, and that our Society has reason to congratulate itself on having decided to hold its winter meeting at Howick. I am much pleased also to be able to-morrow to take part in the meeting of the Dairy Association of Beauharnois, an association to whose meetings I have had the good fortune to be invited on various former occasions, and where I have always found the information and assistance and sympathy that a dairyman requires. Let me say, that I rely, as I think I confidently can, on the support and encouragement of the farmers in the work I have to do. It is only by means of that support and sympathy that I can hope to succeed. The kind words said to me by you, gentlemen, will encourage me in my work. I shall feel very much stronger indeed in knowing that I have at my back the support and sympathy of those whose interests I have in charge. I thank you again most cordially, Mr. Chairman, ladies, and gentlemen, for your kindness in proposing and adopting this motion.

The President (Mr. Brodie)—They say that a prophet is without honour in his own country, but nevertheless I cannot allow you to separate without taking some credit to myself for a prophecy which I made at our last winter meeting, when I predicted that our friend and co-worker, Mr. Fisher, would be the next Minister of Agriculture of this Dominion. Of course the wish was the father of the thought, and therefore I am the more pleased that the event which I have predicted has come to pass. I could indulge in further predictions, but they would be in the line of the eulogiums and predictions which have been so well expressed by Mr. Shepherd and Mr. Newman, who have thus cut the ground from under my feet. I am very much pleased indeed with this visit to Howick, and, as President of the Society, I most cordially endorse all that Mr. Fisher has said of the welcome we have received.

The meeting was then closed.