

HON. MR. PELLETIER (in French)—Without any intention to prolong the debate, I rise to compliment the mover and seconder of the address on the manner in which they have discharged the duty assigned them. It is not often that I have occasion to thank the Government for anything, but I have pleasure in expressing my appreciation of the honor they have done the French element in this House in selecting one of their number to move the Address. We appreciate the compliment all the more since the minority in the other House have not been accorded such a privilege, no speech in the French language having been delivered there to-day. I have no doubt, we owe the compliment here to the unfailing courtesy of the hon. gentleman who leads the Government in this House. I congratulate the hon. senator who moved the Address on the ability which he has displayed; he has deserved and elicited the applause of the Senate. While we have to regret the resignation of his hon. predecessor, we are pleased to find that the successor is a gentleman who fills the position creditably, and honors the Division which he represents and this House of which he is a member. As to the hon. gentleman who seconded the Address, everyone who heard him and understood the language in which he spoke, must have appreciated the eloquent manner in which he dealt with the subject.

HON. MR. RYAN—While bearing my humble testimony to the ability displayed in the Speech from the Throne, and the very pleasant nature of the communication which His Excellency has made to Parliament in his Address, it has struck me that there is one point which has not been alluded to either by the mover or the seconder, or by any of the other gentlemen who have dealt with the paragraphs before us, and which I think is a subject of some importance. I rise now in order that the member of the Administration who may think proper to reply to the speeches which have been delivered and to wind up the debate, may favor us with an explanation upon the subject. I am sure everyone will admit that nothing can be more important to us than anything which is about to deal with our monetary system and with our banking

institutions which conduct that monetary system, and which is alluded to in this debate without any explanation of what the intention may be in regard to those institutions. It says in one paragraph :—

“Among other measures Bills will be presented to you respecting the Civil Service, the Acts relating to Banking and the examination of Masters and Mates of vessels navigating our inland waters.”

Now, I must confess I can hardly see the connection between these three different subjects which are thus alluded to. The connection of our banks with the Civil Service I fail to see, and their connection with the examination of masters and mates of vessels navigating our inland waters, I must confess I am at a loss to observe, unless, indeed, it be that serious accidents having occurred in the navigation of our inland waters, it might be supposed (by a person judging from that alone, and not following the events taking place in the country) that the banks have drifted into an equally unfortunate position since last Session, and must therefore be dealt with in the same manner as the masters and mates—that a similar examination of the banks is intended.

HON. MR. MACDONALD—It may be the banks of the river.

HON. MR. RYAN—Perhaps the masters and mates find their way too often upon those banks.

HON. MR. POWER—Perhaps the Government are at sea on the banking question.

HON. MR. RYAN.—What I hope is that the hon. Minister who, no doubt, will wind up the debate, will give some explanation of what the intention is in introducing measures relating to banking; because I assure hon. gentlemen this paragraph in the Speech has caused some little anxiety already about the intentions of the Government. Nothing can be more easily damaged by constant legislation and constant changing than the banking institutions of the country. It would be well to let it be known, (as I am sure it will turn out) that there is nothing damaging to the banks intended, not any attempt at introducing an irresponsible and irredeemable currency, such