

revived. So far as all the colonies are concerned, I think it would only be a graceful act if they were to commercially unite. It is not at all essential that we should be united on the question of administration. If we throw our ports open to each other we can certainly cultivate the broadest possible friendship which ought to exist between the members of the same family.

Hon. Mr. BOWELL—In attempting to reply briefly to the remarks of the hon. leader of the Opposition, I shall endeavour to do so in the spirit which has characterized his utterances. I congratulate the House, and I congratulate the hon. gentleman himself, if I may be permitted to do so, on the spirit with which he has approached the different subjects mentioned in the Speech from the Throne, but before doing so, I join with him most heartily in congratulating this House upon the admission to it of the hon. member from Prince Edward Island. His address to-day has been one which gives promise that in the future he will be of great advantage to us, however old or experienced we may be in our legislative duties, and however perfect, or rather I should say imperfect, in our ideas of governing the country. His address gave evidence of thought and perfect knowledge of the wants and requirements of this country. After long study and a good deal of experience in the political sphere of his own province he has come to a conclusion which I am certain every thinking man in the whole Dominion will not only appreciate but approve. The remarks of my hon. friend from Windsor were strictly to the point, and I can only echo the remarks of the leader of the Opposition, when he said that they were of a practical character, and gave evidence of thought and contemplation in the consideration of questions affecting this country. I also join most heartily in the eulogies which have been passed on Lord Stanley, our late Governor General, and also on Lord Aberdeen, our present Governor. I must, however, and I suppose it is natural, dissent to a certain extent from the opinion expressed by the hon. gentleman when he said that Canada was made a stepping stone for advancement in imperial politics. It is true that many Governors General, after having left us, have been promoted to what is considered a higher and more responsible position in the

governing of the empire, but that has not always been the case, and the Governors and Viceroy of India have been appointed from other colonies than Canada. If Sir Henry Norman, the Governor at present of Queensland, one of the smallest colonies of Australia, was offered the viceroyship of India after the retirement of Lord Lansdowne, I scarcely think I should be correct in stating that the appointment of a Governor of Queensland was made a stepping stone to the higher position. I am inclined to the opinion that in the selection of viceroys for India the statesmen of England look more to the capacity and the ability of the nominees than they do to the positions which they may have held, either in Canada or any other portion of the empire. Looking at the men who have been sent to India, we can but come to the conclusion that it is their character, their ability and intellect that governed the selection. Lord Elgin, whom my hon. friend referred to, was known to be a man of very great ability and very great intellect. Lord Dufferin and Lord Lansdowne have been appointed for their experience and their fitness to govern the country, and if the gentleman who is now at the head of affairs in this country should receive that honour, it will be, I am sure, from the knowledge that they have of his governing ability, rather than from the fact of his being the Governor General of Canada.

The hon. gentleman, I notice, has pursued in this debate the same course and used the same arguments and objections that have been heard in another place. He complains that Parliament was not called together at an earlier date. I do not know that it is necessary for me to enter fully into the reasons why this was not done. He has called attention a number of times during his speech to the relative position which Canada holds to the United States, and what might follow if a certain policy were carried out. Now, I am not blind to this fact, that, being contiguous as we are to the neighbouring Republic, so far as our fiscal policy is concerned, our legislation may in the future be governed to a greater or less extent by their action. It may not be politic to say so, but I believe in dealing with questions affecting our country, as we would with one another, and wherever a fact exists, no matter what party is affected by it, we should not fail to recognize it and to govern ourselves accordingly. While I say