

It is therefore a real pleasure for us to look inwards at our own country to-day, and we may join with His Excellency and feel profoundly grateful to Providence for the many blessings which we enjoy. Prosperity continues to remain within our borders and all classes of our people are the beneficiaries thereof. The question naturally arises, has the government anything to do with the continuance of these good things, or can any part or portion of this general prosperity be placed to their administration? Does it not look almost like ingratitude for us to complacently shut our eyes and say to ourselves, 'Providence is kind to us,' and to refuse to grant a reasonable amount of praise to the government to-day for the able administration of the affairs of this country. As I look at it, while Providence has been kind to us, yet the remarkable rearrangement of the tariff in 1897, combined with an intelligent and thoroughly progressive administration of the various departments of the government, and especially those of Agriculture and the Interior, have changed the whole face of this country from stagnation to activity and life—an activity such as has never been witnessed before in this country. And right here let me voice a word of praise to the peerless statesman who stands at the head of this administration. When the history of the present administration comes to be written impartially, it will be found that the present leader will loom up very prominently indeed, and that history will be not only pleasing, but profitable and instructive reading to every patriotic citizen. Since his premiership began Canada has advanced by leaps and bounds until to-day the eyes of the whole world are centred upon us. We are the observed of all observers, and while not professing to be a prophet or the son of a prophet, I believe the coming years will witness a repetition of what has taken place in the United States during the past fifty years in the way of immigration and progress in rapid growth. Under Sir Wilfrid Laurier this country has practically been rediscovered, because the country that can produce such a man as the premier, who was capable of taking a second place at the Jubilee in 1897, with ease and grace, and who during the last summer at the colonial conference practically directed the

affairs and the deliberations of that conference, is a standing proof to the whole empire, and for that matter to all the countries outside of the empire, that this country is not, as a French king once designated it, a few 'arpents de neige,' or simply inhabited by an aboriginal race, but that it is a magnificent heritage with every element within itself capable of making it a great and powerful nation. It only awaits the coming of the people who shall here find happy and prosperous homes, and it is gratifying to see that under the administration of the Prime Minister a procession has already commenced, and that it is broadening and widening from almost every country, and growing larger from year to year. Those who will occupy our places a few years hence will see every empty space between here and the Pacific Ocean, and as far north as life can exist, all filled with happy and prosperous homes, cities and towns growing up and a great country to the north under that flag which has braved the battle and the breeze for a thousand years. Under these circumstances, so different from the olden days, not so very long ago, how desirable it is that our rulers and our parliament should have much wisdom and great courage; how careful should we be to hold the scales of justice even, and to maintain an equilibrium between all the classes that comprise our people. How easy it is to give undue advantage by law to some one class, over another class, but if this country is still to continue to grow and prosper, it can only be done on a basis that recognizes the rights of every citizen within its borders. I believe there is a spirit of justice and forbearance among our people, and they will never support any administration apart from these cardinal principles to which I have referred, but they will support any administration that honestly endeavours to promote the prosperity of all without doing injustice to any one particular class. We can therefore heartily endorse His Excellency in calling for heartfelt gratitude to a kind Providence for the many blessings that we enjoy and particularly during the past year, and if I may be permitted I can go a little further than the speech from the Throne and say during the past six years. We all recollect the intense anxiety that spread over this