

SIR CHARLES TUPPER'S GREAT SPEECH.

One of the most remarkable speeches ever heard in the Canadian House of Commons was that of Sir Charles Tupper, the leader of the Conservative party, in reply to the address on the speech from the throne which he delivered on Monday, March 20, 1899. Mr. Bell, M.P. for West Prince, had moved the address in reply to the speech from the throne in an able speech, being seconded by Mr. Martineau, the new member for Montmagny, who spoke in French. Sir Charles Tupper spoke for four hours and a half in a clear and powerful voice, being listened to with enthusiastic approval by the Conservatives, and causing dismay among the Liberal members. He said :

Mr. Speaker, it now becomes my pleasing duty to offer my hearty congratulations to the hon. member for East Prince (Mr. Bell) upon the able speech with which he has just favoured the House, in presenting the motion which has been placed in your hands. The ability that that hon. gentleman brings to the discharge of his duties in this House will cause him to be regarded, I am sure, by every hon. gentleman as a great accession to the debating strength of the House. No person is more gratified than I am to find gentlemen who are elected to sit upon that side bringing to the discharge of their public duties such ability and talent as the hon. member has exhibited to-day. (Cheers). I venture, however, to believe that, with the great intelligence which the hon. gentleman has shown on the present occasion, before he has been here for a very long period, his views will be materially modified, at least with regard to the cause of the great prosperity which, we are all glad to recognize, Canada is enjoying to-day. I listened with especial pleasure to one declaration on the part of the hon. gentleman, a declaration in which, I trust, he expressed the feeling of every member on that side of the House, as I am sure he did of every gentleman on this side, that we shall best discharge our duty to Canada by recognizing that we occupy no dependent position upon our great neighbour to the south of us, but, with the enormous natural advantages with which Providence has favoured this country, we are able to mark out for ourselves an independent course which will command the respect, and even the approval of our neighbours. (Applause). I regard with great satisfaction the statement made by the hon. mover of the resolution, that he considers the proposition made by the representatives of the United States on the joint high commission in regard to Alaska as a dis-