

We have had some object lessons with regard to that within the past few weeks. There have been violence, bloodshed and death, and not so very far from the capital of this country. The measure introduced by the government some few years ago, introduced I believe, at the instance of Sir William Mulock, and by him, was directed in a certain way along which it was expected to find a remedy for difficult conditions. But it does not appear to have gone far enough or to have afforded a very effective remedy. We must not suffer such a condition in this country that there shall be these armed bands confronting each other in cases of disputes of this kind. It will not do. In connection with a private enterprise, such a condition is bad enough, but should such a condition face us with regard to any of our great national undertakings, with regard to the operation of any of our public utilities, it might paralyse the business of the country. I am not speaking of one party or of the other as being at fault, I am not pronouncing judgment on that point; but I say that the attention of the government and of the people of Canada must be turned in the direction of devising some means by which violence, bloodshed and death shall be prevented in cases of this kind. The situation is a very serious one and is brought immediately to our attention by what has occurred within the last few weeks in the immediate vicinity of the capital; and I should be glad indeed if the government had announced, and I shall be glad if later on in the House they shall announce, that this matter has been taken into consideration and some measure looking to a better mode of dealing with these questions will be introduced, and, at least, discussed in parliament.

So far as other measures referred to in the speech from the Throne are concerned, we will give them our best consideration when they are introduced. I have said nothing with regard to the resolutions passed by the conference of provincial premiers. We shall have these presented to us with the resolutions that the government propose to base upon them. So far as these are concerned, we will give them our best consideration. And especially, as I have said, we will give our best and more careful attention and consideration, and support, to any measure which may be introduced by the government which will have for its effect the bettering of conditions in Canada with regard to the holding of elections, which will tend to the elimination of bribery, corruption and coercion from our electoral system and will bring about in our country a cleaner, and fairer trial of public opinion by means of elections than that which has sometimes been afforded in the past.

Rt. Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER (Prime Minister). Mr. Speaker, the tone of the speech to which we have just listened, though not, on the whole unpleasant or

ill-natured, is such as to cause me doubt that it will be my privilege during the present session to have many opportunities of agreeing with my hon. friend (Mr. R. L. Borden). Upon this occasion there appears to be only one point upon which I can agree with him, and that is in offering my humble congratulation to the mover and the seconder of the address which is now in your hands. My hon. friend from West Lambton (Mr. Pardee) has, long ere this, during the last session of parliament, established his reputation upon the floor of this House, and, to-day, the sound and vigour of his expression give us a further illustration of what we may expect from him in the future and show the stuff he is made of. But it is a peculiar pleasure for me to say that I welcome to the floor of this House my young and hon. friend from St. John and Iberville (Mr. Joseph Demers). He takes the place of a gentleman of very high reputation, one who is remembered in this House for abilities of the first order and for a character in keeping with those abilities. Those who came in contact with Mr. L. P. Demers while a member of this House have already accepted the conclusion the government reached some time ago, that he would be an ornament and credit to the bench to which he has been called.

I am sure my hon. friend (Mr. R. L. Borden) agrees with me, though he did not mention it, that we meet under peculiarly auspicious circumstances. This year in which we are and which is now fast reaching its close, this year of Our Lord nineteen hundred and six, has been for Canada, in many respects, a record year. Even the elements seem to have conspired to make it phenomenal. It opened with a winter which turned out to be remarkable for its benignity. In fact, if winter can err at all, this one erred on the side of mildness; if winter could have a fault, the fault of last winter was that it did not come up to the standard of what we regard as climatic orthodoxy. For we Canadians are apt to believe that winter does not give us our due if it fails to pile the snow high upon the ground and send the mercury below zero. Winter was followed by a genial spring and this with a glorious summer, and the year was crowned with an autumn the like of which has not been seen within the memory of living men. The Canadian autumn is famous and deservedly famous. The autumn of this year was of even unusual beauty. And it lingered for days, for weeks, even for months, as if unwilling to depart this much favoured land. In many other and more substantial respects the elements were equally propitious. Except a small section of the country in the lower St. Lawrence, every part of Canada was blessed with a most abundant harvest. The wheat fields in the new provinces gave a generous return, even though that return did not come up to the expectations, the too-ambitious expectations of some over-confident prophets of the earlier part