

you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the House for the kind attention it has given me.

Mr. SPEAKER—Having read the motion, asked whether it was the pleasure of the House to adopt the Address *en bloc*, or to have it read paragraph by paragraph.

Hon. Members—Dispense! dispense!

Mr. SPEAKER—Having read the first paragraph, asked if it was the pleasure of the House to adopt it.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD—Mr. Speaker, my hon. friends, the mover and seconder of the Address, cannot claim exemption from criticism, for although they are young members they are not new members. We have the right to exercise stern criticism in our remarks to-day, and in the character of an appreciative but stern critic allow me to offer to both my felicitations on the happy and eloquent manner in which they have done their duty. As to the speech itself, to which they have moved a response, I can say that it is a most harmless and innocent printed document. I hope that there is no torpedo under it which will create an explosion before the Session is over. However, it looks so amiable on its face, that I certainly do not propose, nor do I suppose, that any of my friends on this side of the House will offer an amendment to it; and so the millenium of which my honorable friend has spoken, has happened already. This Address will, I hope, receive the unanimous assent of this House. In the first paragraph a very proper allusion has been made to His Excellency's late visit to the United Kingdom, and I cordially agree with everything that has been said by these two gentlemen respecting this paragraph, and in laudation of the illustrious individual who represents Her Majesty so well and so gracefully in this country. We can say here what they have said, and we can supply what he could not say in his speech, that his efforts in the way of explaining the position of Canada to the people of England, and in calling the attention of the people of England to the feeling prominent in Canada, was done with the view of benefitting this country, and with the

usual happy eloquence and excellent tact which have always distinguished His Excellency. My hon. friend the leader of the Government, after a review of his speeches in West Ontario on a former occasion, said that he would not want a better emigration agent than His Excellency the Governor General. That agreeable and useful duty he performed in a more marked manner while in England, and I have no doubt that his speeches and remarks, and the influence which those remarks will carry with them, from his high position and from the able and eloquent manner in which they have been presented to the English public, will go far to counteract the effects of the utterances of the official Agent-General. The next paragraph is one which we cannot afford to smite upon—that is, the stagnation which exists in this country. We must all deplore that this stagnation exists. It may be our duty to enquire whether it is created altogether by sympathy with the depression existing elsewhere, or whether there have not been causes, or there are not now causes, which will continue that depression unless by a ministrative or legislative action it is removed. I have no doubt it will be our duty to address ourselves calmly, seriously and zealously to the consideration of that subject. The completion of the Intercolonial Railway is a matter for congratulation in this House, and in this country. I believe when that road is in full operation we will have one of the best railways, if not the very best, on this continent, and, considering the excellence of the road and the high class of the work we have in that line, it will be one of the cheapest in America. I will not now, as we are resolved to have no dissension on this millennial occasion, enter into the question as to location. I have always contended, whether as a military work or as a railway which will have the effect of developing one of the great industries of the Maritime Provinces, the fishing interest, or as a road which will have the effect of encouraging and developing a great section of the Maritime Provinces, which without this Intercolonial Railway would continue comparatively in a state of stagnation,