

in a new era in the history of this country. The third paragraph of the Speech from the Throne is of the highest interest to the people of the Dominion. The reform of the tariff will be the object of a strong, systematic and judicious legislation, likely to prove satisfactory to the country, inasmuch as it will show preferential treatment of the agricultural and working classes, in opposition to monopolies, while fostering our national industries and manufactures. The country is now going through one of those financial crises out of which parties unfortunately try to make political capital, but the hon. gentlemen opposite know very well in what sad condition the country was in when the Government of the day came into power; they are fully aware of the legacy they have bequeathed the Ministry, of the obligations imposed upon them and the grave issues which have to be solved. Immediate steps will, undoubtedly, be taken by the present Government, so as to restore the equilibrium in our budget, bring back prosperity to the country, produce a fiscal system which will prove satisfactory to the masses, and fulfil the legitimate demands of the farming and industrial community. Continuing its policy of economy and retrenchment, the Government announces the abolition of the Franchise Act. While effecting, by that policy, a saving of \$250,000 for the revision of the lists, the Government secures to the several provinces of the confederation the respect of their autonomy, by adopting the franchises of the various provinces, for the election of members to the Federal Parliament. The country and this House, irrespective of parties, will, I doubt not, hail with delight this wise and economical measure, so long expected and asked for. It can hardly be expected of me, Sir, that I should enter into the details of all the different measures mentioned in the Speech from the Throne. I may, however, point out here the importance for this country of the policy of deepening the St. Lawrence Canals, of extending the Intercolonial from Lévis to Montreal, and of establishing cold storage facilities on railways and on steamers, for the shipment of our farmers' products. The prosperity and progress of a country, says a writer, do not depend only on the wisdom of its statesmen, on the number of its institutions, on its higher education, but also on the facilities of communication whereby its inhabitants are enabled to exchange their products, their commodities and even to exchange their views and their thoughts. Such is the reason why the present Government express in the Speech from the Throne their intention of completing those important public works. Let us rise to the importance of the occasion and show ourselves worthy of a country so full of resources and promises. A great responsibility weighs upon our shoulders, as representatives of the people, entrusted by the country with the duty of watching over its

development and prosperity, and, I venture to say, this responsibility assumes, under the circumstances, an exceptional importance, but I have no doubt that with the help of the enlightened and wise advisers of His Excellency and with the equally wise, patriotic and enlightened co-operation of this honourable House, the measures foreshadowed in the Speech from the Throne will be successfully carried out, causing trade, industry and agriculture to spring into new life and vigour. Allow me, Sir, to tender you my heartfelt thanks, as also to the hon. gentlemen in this House for the indulgent hearing you have granted me. My remarks have been prompted by the sole love of our common country, of this Canada of ours which, I doubt not, will play a distinguished and honourable part in the jubilee celebration to be held in London in June next. Let me before resuming my seat, repeat with the poet:

Canada Excelsior! Brille au premier rang!
Un peuple altier prend son essor chez toi, libre
et franc,
Il sait, pour ta défense, signaler sa vaillance,
Vive Régina! Vive Victoria!

I second with pleasure the motion of the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Russell).

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure to me to have the opportunity of expressing the satisfaction with which I have listened to the able and eloquent speech delivered by the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Russell) in moving the Address, and the interesting speech, which I regret I was not as well able to follow, of the hon. member for Two Mountains (Mr. Ethier), who has just taken his seat. I need not say, Sir, that the hon. mover of the Address had a somewhat difficult task to discharge. An ideal free trader, as I believe that hon. gentleman has always professed himself to be, had to discharge the somewhat difficult task of preparing the House for a protectionist tariff. I do not regret that fact, and I can assure the hon. gentleman that I shall be only too happy to join him heartily in carrying out the policy which he has indicated as the one that the best interests of this country demand at the hands of the Government and of this House. It is a still more agreeable duty on my part to tender to the leader of the House, the First Minister, my most hearty congratulations upon the distinction which has been conferred upon Canada, as well as himself, by the invitation of the Imperial Government to take part in the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee. I need not say, Sir, that there is no person within the wide domain of Canada who will, in my view, not feel it fortunate for Canada that on such an occasion, when so great a compliment has been paid to this country, an hon. gentleman occupies the position of First Minister who is so well able to discharge the duties incident to that