

the colonies with the United States will be permitted. This, however, would postpone union with Canada for the next fifty years. Sir Robert Bond seems wholly out of line with Mr. Chamberlain's policy, and unless he can be converted and made a federationist, confederation cannot soon become a vital question in the colony.' That is the opinion I formed of that gentleman years ago, and it is confirmed by everything I have learned and everything I have read, both when I was in Newfoundland a year or two ago and what has taken place since. Sir Robert Bond would much rather be a big frog in a very small pond than be a tadpole in a large lake like the Dominion. And as long as he can remain at the head of affairs in that country we need not expect to have confederation very soon from his hands.

There are many things I would like to discuss but I have spoken longer than I intended to. There is so much in connection with questions affecting the interests of this Dominion that I offer that for my apology for occupying so much time. When the various bills come before us as indicated, by the mover of the address, we will be able to discuss them seriatim and consider them on their merits and dispose of them as an independent non-political body like this, should do.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I am sure that I echo the sentiments of every hon. gentleman in this chamber when I say we all share in the deep expressions of regret at the many changes that have taken place since our last meeting. One gentleman particularly to whom the hon. gentleman referred, was a very intimate friend of mine, a life long friend of upwards of half a century, a gentleman of very great public spirit. His death was a heavy loss to the city of Ottawa and to many friends on both sides of politics. And I might say that outside of this chamber and outside of the public duties which he had to discharge as a member of the Conservative party, the late Mr. Clemow had quite as many warm and sincere friends among his political opponents as among those he was associated with here.

I have great pleasure also in sharing with my hon. friend in the encomiums he passed upon the speeches made by the mover and seconder of the address. Both dis-

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL.

charged that delicate duty with a great deal of tact and very much eloquence and I think the remarks were duly appreciated by this Chamber. The hon. gentlemen were not novices in addressing public assemblies. They graduated in another place where both of them gained some distinction. They had for a long time been members of the House of Commons and now that they have been transferred to this Chamber, though during their stay in the other House no doubt they were very active politicians, the atmosphere, non-political as it sometimes is in this Chamber, will probably mollify the strong feelings they used to exhibit on former occasions.

My hon. friend took the hon. senator who moved the address very much to task because he thought he had enlarged too much on the praise he gave the premier and necessarily the praise he gave the policy of the government. That is practically it, and my honourable friend disputed the right of the government to any praise for the changes that have taken place in the last six years. I cannot allow that challenge to go without pointing to some facts which most conclusively prove that some extraordinary change did take place in 1896, when the change of government occurred and that it was scarcely possible that the remarkable prosperity that dawned on Canada from that year up to the present time could be entirely due to sunshine and shower. I think it can be very clearly shown that during the whole period of the national policy, from the time it was fairly launched in 1882 down to 1896, the trade of this country was absolutely paralysed. No other word will fill the bill. You have only to look at the figures to see at once that it seemed as if some extraordinary calamity had befallen this country between these particular years. It is not that the people of Canada did not exhibit the same industry in that period as the year before or the year after, that they had not good crops or that trade should not have prospered. But the whole policy of the party during those years was to trade among ourselves, and to avoid trade with outside countries, which I think was a very great mistake. The only wealth that comes to the country is by the external trade, whether it is buying or selling. It is