

to say that we have every reason to believe that under the new minister of the Department of the Interior (Mr. Oliver) who now so ably and acceptably presides over that department, the prosperity we enjoyed in the past will continue. That prosperity which heaven's smile has awakened in the west has come to stay, and we shall soon see that great country take its place side by side with the east. Out on our broad prairies, Liberals and Conservatives alike, English speaking and men of other races, Doukhobors and Galicians—all who dwell under that prairie sky desire to go on marching from day to day faithfully, honourably and persistently until they attain the height of Canada's national greatness. Sir, I beg to move that a humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to the speech from the Throne.

MR. WILLIAM CHISHOLM (Antigonish). It is with much diffidence, Mr. Speaker, that I rise to second the motion of my hon. friend from Western Assiniboia (Mr. Knowles), that an humble address be presented to His Excellency in reply to the speech from the Throne. When I was asked by the right hon. and revered leader of the government (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) to undertake this task, I hesitated, much as I appreciated the honour, because I felt conscious of my utter inability to fittingly do justice to the occasion. But inasmuch as I regard the invitation as a special compliment to the province from which I come and the constituency which has honoured me by having recently chosen me as its representative in this parliament, I felt that my duty compelled me not to persist in my reluctance. Besides I was further encouraged to undertake this responsible duty by my confidence that hon. members on both sides will favour me with that kindly indulgence which the House always extends to new and inexperienced members. When I tell you, Mr. Speaker, that last Thursday afternoon was the first opportunity I ever had of witnessing, even as a spectator, the deliberations of this House—or for that matter the deliberations of any parliament or legislature—you will, I am sure, sympathize with me in my inexperience and view my shortcomings with all the greater leniency. I therefore cast myself on the indulgence of this House when I attempt, in my humble manner, to offer a few observations on the speech from the Throne. Before proceeding to do so, however, I desire to say that the hon. gentleman who preceded me has dealt so exhaustively and in such eloquent and felicitous language with the salient features of the speech that but little remains for me to do except re-echo the sentiments he so happily and forcibly expressed.

It must be gratifying to hon. members on both sides, and to the country at large, to know that Canada is making such great

Mr. KNOWLES.

progress and enjoying such marked prosperity. The gigantic strides which our young nation has made in every avenue of business, since the advent of the present government to power, has attracted the attention, and indeed the admiration, not merely of the United Kingdom and the neighbouring Republic, but of the whole civilized world. As Mr. Alfred Mosely has said in the London 'Times,' Canada is today the brightest jewel in the empire. No country, sir, has a happier, a more contented or a more prosperous population than Canada possesses. Every branch of industry—agricultural, manufacturing and commercial—has felt the throb of progress during the past ten years and developed to an unprecedented extent. Our agricultural productions have surpassed our most sanguine expectations, and for these products our farmers have received greater prices on the whole, than ever before. In our cities and towns the throb of machinery and the busy hum of industry greet the ear. Our manufacturing establishments have extended and prospered as they never did before. Indeed the great difficulty which our manufacturers experience is in keeping pace with the demand and coping with the increased business they are called upon to perform. At no time in our history have our working men been more busily employed or received better pay. Only by a comparison of the statistics of our country from time to time can we estimate and properly appreciate the progress we are making. However, I do not propose, Mr. Speaker, to run the risk of trespassing beyond the limits of the patience of this House by presenting an array of figures. As a rule figures are dry and unattractive, although those I would present on this occasion should be interesting inasmuch as it is the happy, pleasing tale of our country's progress and prosperity they unfold.

While assuring you that I do not purpose to enter into any statistical details, I desire to submit a few facts and figures illustrating our country's progress. When I tell you that in 1896, our exports and imports were \$121,000,000 and \$118,000,000 respectively while in 1904 they had increased to \$214,000,000 and \$259,000,000 respectively, and that since the latter date there have been proportionate increases, we gather some idea of the progress we are making. Take agricultural exports: For the seven months ending January last, our agricultural exports amounted, in round numbers, to \$84,000,000; for the corresponding months of the previous year, these exports were \$66,000,000, an increase of \$18,000,000. Is it any wonder that a broad, happy smile suffuses the honest countenance of the farmer? Take also the case of the manufacturers: For the seven months ending in January last, the manufactured goods exported from Canada were \$13,250,000, while for the corresponding period of 1904-05 they