

dress is concluded. With reference to the other question which he put, I understand the Bill is in all important respects exactly as it left the Commons, but that there are some very minor amendments suggested by the Finance Department. Of course I will specially call the attention of the House to those when we come to debate the measure. They are I believe of very slight importance.

The Senate adjourned until three o'clock to-morrow.

THE SENATE.

OTTAWA, Wednesday, Nov. 17, 1909.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

RESIGNATION OF SENATOR MERNER.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Can my right hon. friend tell me if there is any truth in the report which appeared some few weeks ago, that the late Senator Merner before his death had sent in his resignation as a member of this Chamber. It so appeared in the press. I am not aware of the attention of the House being directed to that fact. Possibly my hon. friend may have some information upon it. If not, I may possibly put a notice upon the Order Paper.

Rt. Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—I am not sure, speaking from memory, whether the late Senator Merner did or did not send in his resignation, but I will have inquiry made.

THE ADDRESS.

DEBATE RESUMED.

The Order of the Day being called:

Resuming the adjourned debate on the consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's speech on the opening of the second session of the eleventh parliament, and the resolution for an address in reply thereto.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—It is usual on occasions like the present to congratulate the mover and seconder of the address, who

are generally new members. It would be a work of supererogation for me to congratulate the hon. member for Middlesex, a war-scarred veteran, who is becoming one of the older members of this House and whose reputation as an orator is almost continental. I might as well try to paint the lily white, or give an artificial fragrance to the rose as to make any remarks with reference to the ability of the hon. gentleman from Middlesex to perform a duty of that kind, not only most eloquently but with very great acceptance to this House. I have much pleasure in extending my congratulations to the hon. gentleman from Rigaud, who so gracefully seconded the address, and to express the hope that he may be an active member of this Senate by being a participant in the debates and our deliberations to a greater extent than many hon. gentlemen in this House, who, through excessive modesty, do not take that active interest in the Senate which I think they should. The government is to be congratulated with regard to the drafting of this particular address, which is certainly a piece of word painting of very artistic design and expression. To one who is not possessed of a slight degree of doubt and suspicion as to the statements emanating from the government, this address would appear to be proof against criticism, but to those of us on this side of the House whose duty it is not to permit the government to comfort itself by the happy phraseology embodied in the address, it is very natural that we should fall into the habit of scrutinizing the statements made from time to time in the address in reply to the speech from the Throne. This address, I think should not be exempt from criticism. The first paragraph is as follows:

The present year, which is now rapidly drawing to a close, has been a period of steady and progressive growth. Immigration has poured into the new settlements of the north and of the west, in a copious and well ordered stream, drawn from the best elements of the British Isles, the United States and Continental Europe.

I observed also during the speech of my hon. friend from Middlesex (Mr. Ross) that he expressed his satisfaction at the character of the immigration which has recently come to our shores. It is gratify-