

have the expression of fair and impartial opinion. I think we may count upon that in advance—that however strongly marked have been, in former years, his political tendencies, as the occupant of that Chair when those delicate questions do arise, he will hold the scales with equal fairness and justice between the small minority and the large majority in this Chamber.

There is another point to which I wish to advert before I address myself to the Speech—that is, the absence of the hon. gentleman whom in the past we have all very much admired and respected—the gentleman who since Confederation occupied a very prominent place in this House, fifteen years of that time as leader of the House, and five years as leader of the Opposition. From ill-health, I believe, that gentleman has thought proper voluntarily to withdraw from this Chamber, and has been called upon to fill a distinguished position as the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Ontario. I am quite sure that I express the universal sentiment of every gentleman present when I give expression to the opinion that we have at all times entertained a very high estimate and regard for that hon. gentleman for the fairness with which he discharged those delicate functions that rested with the Leader of the House. The course he took on all occasions, as a rule, met not alone with the approval of his own party, but on the part of the Opposition it was conceded that the line he had chosen was one that was fair and reasonable from his own standpoint.

The hon. gentleman from Monck who has introduced the resolutions in answer to the Speech, asked for the consideration of this Chamber. We are all only too glad to extend to new Senators every possible consideration they may desire, not alone on the occasion of their maiden speech, but until they have become a familiar feature in this body. As the hon. gentleman proceeded with his speech, however, it was evident to all of us that it was quite unnecessary that he should preface it with the modest pretensions which he did. The hon. gentleman showed that he is well versed in the political history of his country. He has been a

somewhat prominent man in his own party. I had the pleasure of sitting with him for a time some twelve or fifteen years ago in the Provincial Legislature. I am not quite sure that he was in the old Parliament of Canada, but he was repeatedly elected to the popular branch of the Dominion Parliament. Although the hon. gentleman has been a very warm adherent of his own party, now that he has come into this non-partisan Chamber, I am quite sure the hon. gentleman will forget the earnest and vigorous blows that he was in the habit of administering to his opponents both on the hustings and from his seat in Parliament; that he will now rest in the dignified serenity which prevails in this Chamber, whence political exigencies are entirely excluded.

We are glad also to welcome our hon. friend from Windsor. He may be taken as a representative of the French Canadian people of Ontario. They are a very large and, I am glad to say, increasing element in the province and I recognize that it was due to that body that a gentleman of their nationality should be called to represent them in this Chamber. I have no doubt from his political standpoint that he will prove a very worthy one. I am only sorry that his views are so restrained, so narrow and so different I believe from those he ought to entertain in accord with the great mass of the French Canadian population who are residents of this Province.

The Speech is an uncommonly short one—I believe the shortest we have had for many years, and it sets out with a rather peculiar paragraph, and that is the congratulation on the prospect of peace in the Dominion of Canada. It did seem to me rather apocryphal that we should talk of peace in Canada. Peace is our normal condition. Who ever dreamed of war? We never supposed that it was within the possibilities that this country should be in any other condition but that of peace. I hope it is not an indication that there are strained relations in any direction or in any quarter that prompt the Government to say that the prospect of peace is satisfactory. We are accustomed, of course, to read in speeches that are