

Mr. Shepherd—When we all heard that Mr. Fisher was to be our Minister of Agriculture, everyone of us—I do not care on what side of politics—who had anything to do with farming or dairying or fruit growing, or any other department of agriculture, was delighted beyond measure at his appointment. We all feel that he is essentially the right man in the right place. I need hardly tell you with what pleasure I hailed Mr. Fisher's appointment, having known him since his boyhood, and having been a schoolmate of his as well. I am perfectly sure that whatever criticism the other departments of the Government may lay themselves open to, the Department of Agriculture, under the direction of our esteemed friend and fellow member of this Society, Mr. Fisher, will show a clean record of most valuable work in the developing of Canada's Agricultural interests. It is very satisfactory to us to have the assurance from Mr. Fisher himself that, although he cannot longer take an active part in the directorate of our Society, yet that we shall always find in him at Ottawa a sympathetic friend in everything that will tend to the promotion of the objects for which our Society was formed. I think that even those of us who are on the opposite side of politics will find it difficult to refrain from joining in the wish that Mr. Fisher's tenure of office may be a long, as it cannot fail to be a successful one.

Mr. Newman—I have great pleasure in seconding this motion and in endorsing cordially the sentiments to which Mr. Shepherd has so aptly given expression. It is very satisfactory indeed to find our Society represented in the councils at the capital, for I am perfectly sure that no matter how engrossed Mr. Fisher may be in his new duties, he will never be able to forget that he is a member of this Society, and for many years one of its Directors. In his hands, everyone who takes any interest in agriculture feels that at least that most important industry of this country is as safe as we can possibly expect it to be under any government. And carrying out the spirit of the concluding remark made by Mr. Shepherd. I might say of my friend, Mr. Fisher, in the words of the late Artemus Ward: "Long may he live."

Resolution adopted.

Hon. Mr. Fisher—While I feel deeply sensible of the honor you have done me, I must disclaim any idea of accepting it as appropriate on this occasion, because really I came here as a member of this Society quite as much as in my position of Minister of Agriculture. I felt impelled to attend your meetings by that same interest which has always prompted me to take part in the work of this Society, and because I am satisfied that there is good work which can be done by this and other kindred associations in this country. I have for so many years devoted myself to the different branches of agricultural pursuits that I feel myself in thorough sympathy, and thoroughly identified with them, and can hardly think of other things or work at other things. Let me tell you, as friends as well as co-workers, that I am extremely gratified, not perhaps altogether because of the honour or glory of the position I occupy—although I think that you will admit that it is a legitimate cause for gratification on my part—but because the work to which I have been called is one I have been so long interested in, the one in fact with which my life has been occupied. I feel all the more on that account a sense of great responsibility, knowing, as I do, that

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