

know to whose great ability its prosperity is largely due, and they must come to the conclusion that the names of those hon. gentlemen who have formerly occupied the position of premier of Canada will last for all time to come. As long as history shall exist, Sir John Macdonald's name will not be forgotten. Following him came a very practical, sound, level-headed man in the person of the late Hon. Alexander Mackenzie. I can truthfully say of him, as the hon. the leader of the Opposition has been pleased to say of myself, that although I differed from him in almost every act of his political life, although I regarded him as an extreme free trader—I had almost said a Scotch Radical—he was ever actuated by the best and purest motives, and in all his actions in the high position which he held, he did what he believed would be for the best welfare of the country. At the end of his term of office he was succeeded by Sir John Macdonald. After his demise came a man eminent in his profession, who had scarcely a peer at the bar—one whom we all knew and revered and whose talents were appreciated and respected everywhere—the late Sir John Abbott. Following him came one with whom it was my good fortune to be intimately associated during the whole of the period he was a member of the Conservative Administration. I am therefore in a position to say, that the opinion which has sometimes been expressed, that Sir John Thompson was somewhat bigoted in his views, could only have emanated from those who knew little or nothing of him. A man of broader views, a man of keener intellect, a man who desired to treat all classes of the community more equally, never, I believe, lived in Canada. Nova Scotia has cause to be proud of such a son. I shall not indulge in any further eulogy of the departed statesman. No one grieved more than I did when I heard of his untimely death, and I can truthfully say that ever since, I have not ceased to regret his untimely end particularly on account of the great loss which Canada has sustained, and from the fact that his onerous and responsible duties have devolved upon my shoulders; but I can say to hon. gentlemen that whatever my defects may be in the important position which I now hold, that I shall continue in the future as I have endeavoured in the past, to do my duty to my country as far as in me lies, firmly convinced when I adopt a course

of action that it is right, and that it is conducive to the advancement of the best interests of the Dominion. Of Sir John Thompson I can say very little more than to utter the deep regret which pervaded all classes of the community when the news of his sudden death was flashed across the ocean. It was a tragic ending. He was a man who rose, as the hon. leader of the Opposition has said, to the highest position in the House by his industry, energy and integrity, and the country will long have cause to regret that he was removed so suddenly from the sphere of action in the administration of the affairs of this country. Having said this much, I may refer very shortly to the remarks made by the hon. leader of the Opposition with which, I may say, I have very little fault to find. We all know that the duty of an opposition is to find fault, and, therefore, while he grumbles we should not be at all annoyed. He was very mild, and his remarks were a repetition of the remarks of the leader of the Opposition of the other House, and, consequently, are not new. We have heard a good deal about the unwritten law of Parliament. We know that the constitution under which we live is of an elastic character, and therefore preferable to that which is written and which is obligatory upon all governments as is the case over the border.

The death of the Right Hon. Sir John Thompson, the then leader of the government, threw matters into a state, if not of chaos, at least disarranged matters to such an extent that time was required for consideration. The hon. gentleman says that the delegates from Newfoundland left for Canada after the calling of Parliament. That is very true, but he might also have stated that we had been in communication with the governor and the Government of Newfoundland for the last two months, and also with the authorities in England with reference to this very question, and I should have been only too pleased had we been enabled to come to the House with a series of resolutions for the admission of Newfoundland into the confederation. However, that is impossible at the present time, for reasons, which I am not at liberty at the present moment to divulge; but I hope that the time is not far distant, when the Dominion will be rounded off by the accession of Newfoundland to its territories, believing, as I do, that it will add greatly to our