

ON THE ADDRESS.

Mr. Davin on the Trade Question—The Member for West Assiniboia Makes a Powerful Speech on the Government's Shortcomings — The Result of the Old National Policy — The Grit Application Thereof.

The following is the full text of Mr. Davin's speech on the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne:

Mr. Speaker, I rise to express the opinion of one coming from the Northwest Territories in regard to the Speech from the Throne; I also rise to say something of the grand political situation in this House and in the country as suggested by the Speech from the Throne and illustrated by the debate. Sir, the debate thus far is the most extraordinary debate which, I believe, has ever taken place on an Address in any Parliament. Sir, from this side of the House two powerful arraignments of the Government's position have been made; but from the Ministerial benches, although the two foremost men on that side of the House have spoken, the replies have taken the character of playful badinage, as though the right hon. gentleman who wears now Grand Cross of St. Michael and St. George, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, thought that the people of Canada took no stock whatever in the charges made by hon. gentlemen from this side of the House, or else thought that to those charges there was no answer possible, and that therefore the best way to cover up was by trying to make a joke and then sitting down, in the vain hope—vain assuredly it is—that the people of Canada, or, at least, the Liberals of Canada, would be taken in by a policy so obvious as that. Now, Sir, it has been a very peculiar debate, and I want to call attention to one of its peculiarities. We have had

several comparisons. The Prime Minister compared the leader of the Opposition to a very famous character in classical poetry. Now, my right hon. friend will excuse me if I tell him that there is no such character in Homer or in Shakespeare as Thersites, but there is Thersites (Laughter and cheers.) My hon. friend throws back his head. My hon. friend is eloquent in two languages, and it is therefore excusable, when speaking in the tongue that was originally foreign to him, but in which he is now a master of expression, that he should occasionally mispronounce a word. But he knows as well as I do that in academic halls he was guilty of an unpardonable offence in making the short in Thersites. However, it was a very extraordinary and inapt comparison, because Thersites is a low ill-shaped railer against the great men of Greece in the Trojan war.

The ex-Minister of Finance compared the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to Ajax. And in the play of Troilus and Cressida Thersites rails at Ajax and rails even at Achilles, but this is to be noted that in nearly everything he said of Ajax, all who knew anything of Ajax would agree with him. Hon. members have all been in the comparative line in this debate. My hon. friend who leads the Opposition compared the right hon. gentleman to Prince Maurice de Talleyrand, and I leave that where it is. The Prime Minister compared the Finance Minister to Alexander of Macedon. I wish I had a spiritualistic