

doubt have been gratifying to his leaders. The hon. gentleman, the youngest Senator in this House, who has seconded the resolution we have all heard with very great pleasure, and I am quite prepared to make all allowances for his first address to this Chamber, although I think that any apology on that score is quite unnecessary. I am very glad to welcome that hon. gentleman to this Chamber, for although he is a Conservative, I assume that that is a blemish which we must overlook. Under the principle on which gentlemen are appointed to this House only adherents of the dominant party are admissible; and therefore I am free to say that a very good selection has been made in this instance. Though the hon. gentleman has not in the past filled any representative position in the country, yet he is not altogether unknown to fame as a distinguished member of the profession to which he belongs. The hon. gentleman is appointed to a position in this House that was formerly held by a gentleman from Kingston, whose memory we all hold in very high esteem, a gentleman who had, before he left this House, been recognized as the oldest member, and had been a long respected member of the Legislative Council of old Canada and of the Senate.

Now, coming to the first paragraph of the Address, on which I wish to make some brief comments, I am free to say that I cannot entirely concur in the fulsome observations made by my hon. friend who moved the resolutions. We are asked to join in congratulations on the abundant harvest with which Providence has blessed our country, and if the paragraph stood alone, I am free to say I should heartily join in it, but it is very cunningly united with one congratulating us also on the general condition of the Dominion. With that part of the paragraph I am disposed in some degree to find fault. The paragraph tells us later on that "the commercial prosperity of Canada, although it has to some extent shared in the depression which has prevailed in Great Britain, and in the neighboring Republic, rests upon foundations which no temporary or partial disturbance can remove."

Now, we were told, not a great many years ago, in 1879 and 1880, and we have heard it very frequently since the adoption

of what might be called the new policy in this country, that it was going to avert just such a crisis as there is now over Canada. In 1877 and 1878 the Government of that day were time and again told that it was their duty to avert the then existing depression, that by the adoption of a protective policy the evils of a depression might be to some extent minimized. That opinion, at the time, I challenged, and I think recent experience of those who have given the subject anything like careful thought has convinced them that the policy adopted in 1879 was not a wise one, that we have utterly failed to provide for the farmer of this country what he was then promised, a home market; that we have utterly failed to sustain our own manufactures, even by the high wall that we erected to keep the manufacturers of other countries out. So long as the general products of this country had a demand in the markets of the world, more particularly the products of our farms and the products of our forests and fisheries, so long did prosperity reign, and it mattered little whether we paid high or low taxes, but when the strain came upon us, when the wave of depression swept over other countries, we immediately shared in the consequence of the wave. The protective policy of this country was quite unequal to giving what had been so liberally promised by the Government, when such conditions as have arisen, arise in this country. So long as our exports were large, and so long as Great Britain and the United States were able to buy from us, the wealth that flowed into Canada was attributed to the National Policy, although as a matter of fact we were really importing more than we had been importing before, with a consumption of more manufactures than we had consumed before. If the argument had been a sound one, the manufactures in Canada would have grown and spread, and we would have imported less. The policy of the Government was that we should manufacture for ourselves and not buy abroad. It is quite apparent, therefore, that the fiscal policy adopted in 1879, has failed to provide the home market promised to the farmers of this country. No doubt, while the prosperity continued it stimulated the manufactures of this country. It induced many