

I am personally, as I am sure is this honourable House, in the heartiest accord and sympathy with the sentiments expressed in the concluding paragraph of the speech, when His Excellency in taking his leave does so with an earnest prayer that "being guided by the spirit of wisdom and patriotism, our deliberations may under the divine blessing conduce to the unity and well-being of Canada." The spirit of wisdom and patriotism as exemplified in legislation for the nation is of itself a potent factor, and has accomplished much for them in their past history, and will doubtless work new wonders for them in the coming years; but for our Canada we crave, in addition to that, that the legislation effected in her interests may from its inception to its completion be guided, governed, permeated with the divine blessing, and thus will extreme party acrimony and rancour be largely eliminated from our debates, and from our intercourse, and under such conditions, we shall have the best of all guarantees for the unity and well being of this land which we love so well.

Hon. gentlemen, I have the honour to move the adoption of the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

Hon. Mr. ARSENAULT—If the hon. gentleman who has just spoken has found it necessary to ask the indulgence of the hon. members of this House, I also ought to ask such indulgence, and more particularly as this is the first time that I appear before this honourable body, and, therefore, have not very much to say. However, as it is my duty to offer a few words, I will proceed. The first item in the speech is a very sad one, as it has reference to death, nothing so certain as death, and nothing so uncertain as the time that it will happen. It has no regard for persons or positions; it enters the palaces of kings, as well as the huts of the poor, and often strikes at a time when least expected. Within the last four years no less than three of our ablest statesmen have passed away, Sir John Macdonald, of happy memory, the founder and father of confederation, the able statesman and the beloved leader of his party is no more. It has been often said of him that he was the only man in the Dominion who could maintain the Liberal-Conservative party in power, and that after him there would be "the deluge"; but he has gone and the deluge has not come. Sir John Abbott,

next appeared on the scene as the leader of the Conservative Government, a man of fine abilities who commanded respect and influence; but after one session of Parliament owing to ill-health he resigned the position and shortly after was called to his long home. These two statesmen died full of years and honours, in the midst of their dearest friends and families.

The death of Sir John Thompson was particularly sad. He was stricken suddenly and without warning in the prime of life, thousands of miles away from his country, from his friends and family, at a time when he had just attained to the highest honour that can be conferred by our Queen. The people of Canada were shocked and astounded when the melancholy news of his death was flashed to us from over the ocean. Our people lamented the sad death of the brilliant statesman, our sovereign mourned the demise of her able and faithful councillor, and all that could be thought of by her to show her sympathy and love for her illustrious Canadian son, was done in the most costly and elaborate manner possible, I need not say anything of the royal conveyance which was given his mortal remains, to their last resting place in the land of his birth under, I might say, the supervision of Her Majesty herself. Such sympathy and such love of her subject by our Queen, well deserve our most unbounded love and loyalty. Sir John Thompson is no more; his deeds only remain.

It is satisfactory to learn from the speech of His Excellency that negotiations are being carried on with foreign powers, and the different colonies of the empire, for the development of better trade relations with the Dominion, thus showing that the colonial conference held here about twelve months ago has been productive of some good.

For some time past dissatisfaction has existed in the province of Manitoba, owing to an Act of the legislature depriving the minority of that province of their rights and privileges in educational matters. These rights were embodied in the constitution of that province, and were guaranteed by the Parliament of Canada. The policy of the majority of one denomination, attempting to coerce the minority in educational matters, is, I think, to be deplored. Until 1890 all denominations in that province were living in unity and peace, since then a large portion of the population have not enjoyed