

ward now to a unity of effort and a unity of design, and irrespective of political considerations, with no other object in view but the advancement of the material interests of our country, let us perpetuate the fair name of Canada, let us endeavour to continue it as a colony of which the Government of Great Britain has reason to feel proud; because I feel assured that among the territorial dominions of Her Majesty there is not one that occupies a higher position than Canada. Sir, I wish its people the greatest possible degree of prosperity, and God-speed.

Mr. LACHAPELLE. (Translation.) Mr. Speaker, previous to seconding the Address in answer to the Speech from the Throne delivered yesterday by His Excellency the Governor General. I deem it my duty to pay to His Excellency the respects of this House and to convey to him the feeling of gratification with which the Dominion at large received his appointment as its Viceroy. When, last summer, Lady Aberdeen was selected as the head of the Women's Association in Chicago, when she organized that congenial work, that affectionate work in the shape of an Irish village, Lord Aberdeen was given us as our new Governor. I fancy, Mr. Speaker, that it must have been somewhat of a pain for His Excellency to break the bonds that tied him to the old land, for I am aware that His Excellency was a favourite with the English, Scotch, and especially Irish people. Well, let His Excellency be pleased to bear in mind that he will find in the Dominion the same affectionate feelings, and, moreover, the affection of the French people, which, in their behalf, I have the honour to tender him. Mr. Speaker, the first section of the Speech from the Throne seems to be permeated with one single concern. It looks like a wish of the heart, the reading of this section seems to give voice to a joyous exclamation. His Excellency states therein a feeling of gratification resulting from the financial and commercial condition of the Dominion. His predecessor had ventured to hope that our trade would go on increasing and that the financial working of the last year would realize the happy anticipations which he chose to make. His Excellency appreciates this fact, and we share his delight in this respect. The fact is, the prosperity of Canada shines out more forcibly from day to day. We have but to consider the various elements on which we must rely to prove this proposition, and we find that we are right in feeling proud of this general prosperity. I will not venture, Mr. Speaker, to read aloud the trade returns nor the banks' financial statements, nor the other returns of the same kind on which one must exclusively rely when stating that the present condition of our country realizes what the founders of confederation had prophesied. I only beg to be allowed to call your attention to a fact which happened during last

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year, a most momentous fact, which, to my mind, affords the proof of the statement which I ventured to make when speaking of our prosperity: I refer to the great Chicago Fair. Well, what is the lesson that comes out of this fact as regards our country? All the visitors to the exposition came back satisfied that, although the United States apparently held a higher position than ours in the political world, the Dominion held along with the United States an enviable position, a position which is indeed considered by us all as much advantageous, if not superior, to that of our neighbours. At this exposition, where we had an earnest organization, for which the Government really deserves the thanks of the country, our Canadian exhibitors, in the most important departments of industry, carried the largest number of the prizes granted. They came back, so to say, the breast covered with medals, their hearts overflowed with a new patriotism. Why should we feel so proud? Why is it that we are feeling this pleasant sensation, this deliverance of contentment which we are pleased to make repeatedly outside of this House and even here to-day? It is because this prosperity is the natural result of the National Policy brought about in 1878. We are happy, Mr. Speaker, to find that it is the natural result of the great policy that the Conservative party introduced in our country. It is a natural consequence of the policy in which we, the Conservatives, believed, and which has led to the prosperity and the greatness of our country. Mr. Speaker, the most important point of the speech delivered by His Excellency, the Address to which I have the honour to second, the material part of that speech is that which regards the tariff, the revision of the tariff. We must feel that this is a momentous question, requiring the whole attention of this honourable House, and one which must truly be granted every consideration in the preliminary researches which it involves. But it is well to bear in mind in the meantime that the protection principle was the safeguard of our trade, that this principle is the one that made the Dominion what it is now. So that, should the Government deem proper to amend the tariff, it must be understood that the underlying principle of this tariff must remain unchanged. We must remember, also, Mr. Speaker, that the regulating of a tariff, the fixing of the duties to be raised, form, so to say, a contract in which are, to a large extent, certainly, interested the foreign manufacturers, the importers and our own manufacturers. Well, if, according to my contention, there is a contract in that, the Government, when establishing and making a new tariff, are bound to preserve the protection principle which has prevailed for a number of years in our country. Mr. Speaker, must we not understand, as any one does, as for that, that when it comes to changing a contract, it does not go without thorough, earnest studies, without pre-