

It will be within the recollection of all who were present last Thursday that the motion was seconded by the hon. gentleman from Russell. I even rose in my place to express my astonishment and to inquire whether an arrangement had been made for the hon. gentleman to second the motion made by the leader of the House. An alteration has been made in the minutes. I do not know at whose instance this change was made, whether the allegiance of the hon. gentleman from Russell only lasted that afternoon, but it is something we are all interested in knowing. I hope the hon. gentleman from Russell will explain how he happened to permit himself to second a motion which embodies a policy to which he is opposed here, and which he was opposed to in another place. Some explanation is due from the leader of the Government or from the hon. member from Russell.

Hon. Mr. EDWARDS—If I must explain, my common sense led me to believe there were no parties in this House. If it is claimed there are parties, then I can only say that my affection and esteem for the hon. leader of the House led me temporarily astray.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN—Will the error be corrected in the Journal?

Hon. Mr. POWER—You cannot correct it.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I may say I had nothing to do with the changing of it. I know not how it was made, but I was delighted to see the name of the hon. gentleman from Russell put from the Chair as the seconder of that motion, because it was a vindication of the principle he himself laid down that there were no parties in this House, and I am surprised that my hon. friend who brought this matter up should indicate that there were.

THE ADDRESS.

MOTION.

The Orders of the Day being called.

Consideration of His Royal Highness the Governor General's speech on the opening of the third session of the twelfth Parliament.

Col. the Hon. Mr. MASON—It is a great honour to be invited to move the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, which I now have the privilege of doing. I appreciate the opportunity and also the

difficulty of the occasion. As a new member, however, of this portion of the Parliament of Canada and as one who is not a practised speaker, political or otherwise, I ask for your consideration and am sure it will be granted.

The reference by His Royal Highness to the sympathy shown by Canadians during the serious illness of the Duchess last year is one which will be greatly appreciated. The Crown has rarely been represented in Canada, or it is safe to say anywhere in the Empire, by one who has so greatly interested himself in local affairs, so closely identified himself with Canadian interests, so warmly sympathized with Canadian ambitions, as has the Duke of Connaught. In this work and in the hearts of our people his gracious Consort has found a high place, and it was with a sense of deep sorrow that our people heard of the illness of Her Royal Highness—a sorrow only equalled by their pleasure and joy at realizing her recovery, and in hearing that she was coming to us once more. I cannot help expressing here an admiring appreciation of her courage and kindness of heart, in coming back again to our somewhat distant shores, and leaving the climate and environment which were no doubt better suited, at this time, to the condition of her health. We welcome Their Royal Highnesses and, need I say, the Princess Patricia, with sincere appreciation, and with a renewed sense of loyalty to the splendid monarchical institutions which they embody and to the King, whom His Royal Highness so ably represents. In this connection I would like to say that it must be very gratifying to Their Royal Highnesses to see, in this time of his young manhood, how successfully and with what popularity their son Prince Arthur of Connaught, is performing the important and arduous public duties assigned to him by His Majesty, the King.

In its reference to the development of Trade, the Speech is explicit and the terms employed do not over-estimate the importance of the progress made in this respect by Canada last year. The figures for December are not available but taking the past three calendar years in the twelve months ending November 30, I find that in 1911 the total imports were \$515,649,198; in 1912, \$638,497,874; in 1913, \$672,402,808. During the same period the total exports were \$301,601,871 in 1911; \$367,302,482 in 1912; and \$460,257,192 in 1913. These figures