

quest that this House will gladly unite with me in the expression of the great pleasure it gives hon. members of this Senate to know and to welcome His Excellency to this country in the capacity of Governor General of this great Dominion. His Excellency has the advantage of some of his predecessors, an advantage that I am sure will stand in good stead and an advantage of which we shall, in a measure, reap the benefit, because of His Excellency's previous acquaintance with this Dominion, and I am sure it is the earnest wish and prayer of this hon. House that a kind Providence may watch over and protect His Excellency and Lady Minto and that their lives may be spared, and that, under Providence, their sojourn in this country in the high position to which they are called will prove a great blessing to the people of Canada, a blessing in which we trust they will also have a part. I cannot omit in this connection, and I know hon. senators will not consider that I am travelling beyond the record, if I take the opportunity of asking the members of this House to remember His Excellency's predecessor Lord Aberdeen and his accomplished wife. Perhaps no higher encomium can be pronounced upon any person than to say that he went about doing good. I think that is eminently applicable to His Excellency's predecessor and Lady Aberdeen. I rejoice in the fact that Great Britain not only sends these eminent men to preside over our destiny for a limited number of years, but in the further and important consideration that after they have left our shores they continue to exercise their beneficial influence on behalf of this Dominion, and I have no doubt that what has been characteristic of His Excellency's predecessors—will also be characteristic too of His Excellency Lord Minto.

Taking up for a short time the consideration of His Excellency's speech from the Throne, His Excellency has been graciously pleased to refer to the prosperity of Canada. It is a cause of gratification, which I am sure all hon. senators will share, that Canada to-day is enjoying a very large measure of prosperity. Perhaps it has not yet reached, in every department, to the high water mark to which it has, in some times past, attained, but I hope that by the time this session is over—that by the time certainly this parliament is over, we shall give it such an impetus that we shall bring that prosperity fully up to the high water mark. In commerce, in banking, in manufacturing and in

all departments of industry there seems to be fresh life, fresh vigour giving and inspiring the people of this Dominion with fresh hope and fresh courage. I trust that that feeling will continue to grow more and more. I would not be understood as expressing the view that a government can create good times. I have never taken that view, I believe, however that a government can do a great deal towards assisting to bring about good times by lightening the burdens of the people here and there, and watching in every way, if it may be, in anticipating certain events, so to speak, on tip toe to discover what is necessary to apply the remedy. There seems to be just now, rising from the broad bosom of this vast continent, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, a pæan of joy and hope, and the music of every industry seems to fill the people with the feeling that our prosperity is of a permanent character. I am glad to know, and you will be glad to know, notwithstanding some misgiving on the point expressed some years ago, that our manufacturing industries were in great jeopardy if the administration of the affairs of this country should pass into the hands of the present government: nevertheless we are glad to find that those forebodings have not proved to be a reality; and although not a manufacturer, not a commercial man, not a banker, still, as one who has always tried to take an intelligent interest in public affairs, and from inquiry of those competent to judge, I think it is safe to assert that our manufacturing industries, notwithstanding the prophecy that was made, are in a most flourishing and satisfactory condition. My only hope is that they may so continue. There is an element in this prosperity and the cause of it to which you will allow me to refer, and that is to the agricultural aspect of the question. Providence has sent this Dominion two magnificent harvests, and it is to these harvests we are largely indebted, under wise administration, for our present prosperity. Allusion is also made in the speech to the fact that immigration is encouraged. There is increased immigration. That is a natural sequence or consequence of prosperity. Make any country prosperous and there will be no trouble about immigration. Immigration will set in. Immigration will pour into any prosperous country as inevitably, as naturally as water seeks the centre of gravity, and one encouraging feature of this prosperity and one