

affairs of the country, with a system of laws than which none is better, with a rapid growth of population and, meanwhile, a steady development of our wealth, then, I say, will come the day when yearly deficits will be replaced by wonderful surpluses, the application and effects of which for this country cannot be overestimated at this remote date.

Mr. Speaker, I could further say that the exodus has been checked, that the financial equilibrium has been restored, but I must come to a conclusion, as I realize that allowing myself to be carried away by the marvellous things which meet my gaze, when raising the curtain of the future, I am apt to forget that I am taking the time of the House and I must not abuse the indulgence of the hon. members. Let me, Sir, before I resume my seat, tender my thanks to the Government of this country and congratulate them for having given us more than idle hopes. I know that the hon. gentlemen who now sit on the Treasury benches, are not satisfied, as was the case under the Conservative rule, with a deluge of words in a desert of ideas, but, on the contrary, that all promises are redeemed. I know that the Government are not satisfied with governing, but that they make it a point to forecast events, and through that political foresight not only is the stability of a government secured, but our finances and commercial prosperity are likewise made stable. Truly, fortune smiles on us; wealth is ours; and to quote the words of the hon. gentleman who was at the time the young and talented member for Drummond-Arthabasca, we are no longer threatened with the chastisement of Tantalus, but rather with the effects of the over-indulgence experienced by Gargantua. At all events, prosperity is ours once more, and if I rightly understand the utterances which re-echo from all parts of the country, peace, union, harmony are going to prevail in this country. Allow me, Mr. Speaker, to give expression to a wish from the innermost depths of my heart, and it is this: may the day soon dawn over this country we all love so much, when we may be enabled, in a common feeling of brotherhood, all and every one of us, men of British, French Canadian, Scotch or Irish descent, whether Protestants or Catholics, may we, I say, all repeat in unison, so that they may re-echo to the remotest corners of the Dominion, that sublime message sent by heaven to the earth, those sublime words which re-echoed throughout the heavens of Galilee under the light of the Star of Bethlehem: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." who have it to heart to make this Canada of ours a rich, free and prosperous country, through the union of all our fellow-countrymen, irrespective of the diversity of creeds and languages.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I am sure that the House has listened with very great

Mr. GAUVREAU.

interest to the addresses just delivered by the hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram) and the hon. member for Temiscouata (Mr. Gauvreau). I congratulate the House very heartily upon at least having present, in the able representative of Centre Toronto, the gentleman who is responsible for the existing tariff of this country. We had a good deal of curiosity to know how such a remarkable production was brought about: but we were informed, during the election campaign in Centre Toronto, that the architect of the tariff was the gentleman who has just, with so much ability, given us his opinions. We knew that he was a distinguished manufacturer, we knew that he had a very large and important industry connected with machinery and hardware; but we did not know, until the revelations made during the discussion in that election, that the hon. gentleman had constructed, line by line, the present tariff, that there was not a single article from A. to Z. that had not passed under his careful inspection, and—I think he went very far towards saying—received his imprimatur. Now, Sir, it is always a satisfaction to know who is responsible in these cases. But I was a little surprised that the gentleman, although the architect of this great tariff, and having the advantage of having a very admirable model prepared beforehand for him to follow, should make the very remarkable admission that he did make during his interesting address. That admission was that there was a great deal of consternation throughout this country caused by anticipations of what the Liberal party would do if they got into power. What was the cause of that consternation, what was the reason for it? Why, the reason was that there were a number of people in this country who believed that these gentlemen were sincere, that they really meant what they said when in Opposition, and that if they obtained power they would carry out the pledges they had given to the people. And I think I can tell the hon. gentleman (Mr. Bertram) what relieved the public mind, what it was that gave that buoyancy to the feelings of the business men of this country that he says they at present enjoy. The reason is that these business men found that they were mistaken in supposing that the Liberals were sincere. The business men found that these gentlemen who, during eighteen years—except for a brief period when they were advocating unrestricted reciprocity and the taking of the tariff of United States as a model for Canada—had been declaring that if they obtained power they would tear up protection root and branch, who had been saying, in the forcible language used by the right hon. the First Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) on the other side of the water that protection was a curse to Canada—instead of redeeming their pledges had called in a bloated manufacturer who had been fattening upon