

the clean records of its leaders, and their lofty and national sentiments. And I can assure this Government that as long as they possess these principles, as long as they endeavour to work them out in a definite programme of progress and prosperity, they will have the support of the young men of this country and will retain the respect and confidence of that ever recruiting class.

Before I conclude, Mr. Speaker, I wish to express the confidence in the Government which is prevalent throughout this country. On this side of the House we are proud to regard the present Government as the best that has ever held power in Canada. Whether this be true or not, whether this be a right estimate or not, I do not know; but, Sir, one thing is certain—that this Government is composed of the ablest and purest and most honourable men that can be brought together in Canada to-day. It is because I believe our honoured leader and the distinguished gentlemen whom he has associated with him in the Government will do what is right and fair by all classes and sections of this community; because I believe, Sir, they also appreciate the importance, the national importance of developing that greater Canada beyond the lakes, and that greater west beyond the Rockies; because I have every confidence that they will strive to make broad the foundations of our national life and to build up in this Canada of ours a democracy greater and truer than any the world knows, that I am pleased to move this Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

Mr. LEMIEUX. (Translation). Mr. Speaker, in accepting the task of seconding the motion for the adoption of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, I did not disguise from myself how ungrateful is the task and onerous the burden involved.

More accustomed to another atmosphere, I do not, I hasten to avow, feel quite at ease in this Chamber, where the rules of debate circumscribe one, denying to eloquence itself the right to move the heart, appealing only to logic and reason. However, Mr. Speaker, if, as has been said, "noblesse oblige," youth also compels; and as in seconding the motion of the hon. member for Vancouver, I have the great honour to be more especially the spokesman of the deputation from the province of Quebec, I submit, therefore, with good grace to the arduous task which has been imposed upon me; at the same time claiming your indulgence.

Your election, Sir, as First Commoner of this House has been greeted with pleasure by the old French province of Quebec, where you were born, where you obtained your education, where you have learned our language and studied our literature, and of which you have made yourself the generous defender during the course of your political career. It is a most agreeable duty for me

Mr. McINNES.

to offer you, on behalf of my colleagues, this testimony of our sympathy.

The important events which have taken place in the country during over a year of political agitation, the henceforth historic date of the 23rd of June, and the notable changes which have been brought about in the constitution of this House, are cause that at this moment, from one end of Canada to the other, from the seacoast of Gaspé to the far-famed Eldorados of British Columbia, general attention is rivetted upon us.

However, if we except the Supplies which this House will be called upon to vote for Her Majesty's Government, the work of this session should be of short duration and will necessarily be of little importance.

The advanced period of the year, the short interval of time which separates the two Parliaments, the haste with which it was necessary to prepare and revise the Estimates, are so many obstacles which have prevented the new Administration from bringing forward, during this session, those measures of public policy upon which we had counted. The Speech from the Throne, however, gives us an insight into important reforms, the accomplishment of which will be hailed with pleasure by the whole country.

No change will be made in the tariff, for the present at least. This announcement, while reassuring to those who have their capital invested in the various industries with which our young country is dotted, need not alarm the agricultural community, whose shoulders have until now been so heavily burdened by such heavy taxes and who, during the last general elections, have so emphatically declared in favour of a change of regime, that is to say, for tariff reform. The Ministers will put themselves in touch with all classes of the population, and their work will consist mainly in removing the shocking inequalities foisted upon our fiscal system by twenty years of extreme protection. The Government, Mr. Speaker, does not aim at revolution, but at peaceful reform and at the reconciliation of conflicting interests, without any disturbance or violent crisis: such is their ideal. This scheme of tariff reform, I am aware, will meet with systematic opposition from those interested. The selfish interests fostered by the present system, the men who had cherished the hope of living a quiet life here below, have an instinctive abhorrence of any change; but they should remember the old Latin adage "Vita in motu" (there is life in motion). Like all who have abused their power, they should be prepared to submit philosophically to the alterations brought about by the exercise of the electoral suffrage.

In this work of tariff revision, the Government will, I have no doubt, have a due regard for public opinion. They will proceed gradually, without too much precipitation, so as to relieve, with care and discernment