

we were making war upon vested interests. It is our business to govern the country as we find it. There are many things perhaps that if we had come into power earlier would have been different—would have been, from my point of view at least, better; but we had to deal with the position of things as they existed when the change in the political sentiment of the country took place, and when the public confidence placed us where we are, and we propose to pursue the course which we had marked out for ourselves, consistent with the principles of good order and of quiet, and to carry with us the confidence, so far as we can, of every class of the population. It is said by a distinguished writer, that the foolish and the dead never change. We are neither foolish nor dead, and we intend to bring about those changes which we believe will be to the advantage of the country, and which will contribute to its material growth and to its prosperity.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—When I say I have listened with a great deal of pleasure to the speech of the hon. mover of the Address, I feel confident that I express the opinion of every hon. gentleman in this House. By saying that I do not at all intend to convey the impression that I agree with everything the hon. gentleman said, but from his own point of view, and in the performance of a very delicate and important duty in this House, I must say that he performed his work very well indeed, and I would almost go so far as to compliment the hon. gentlemen on the government side of the House in calling our friend to this House, because I am satisfied from the address he has made that he will be a very valuable member of the Senate. I would almost go a little further on that point and say that in the matter of filling seats in this House the present Premier of Canada and his colleagues have shown a very great regard indeed for the honour of the Senate and the interests of the country, for we have added to our members gentlemen of ability and standing and influence in the country. I will go a little further to say that in the appointment of a gentleman to fill the seat made vacant by my lamented colleague in this House, Senator Arsenaux, no better appointment could have been made from the ranks of the Liberal party in Prince Edward Island than the hon. gentleman who has been called to that place. It would be diffi-

cult to find any one better fitted to adorn a seat in this House than the gentleman who has been appointed by the government to be in the Senate either in the ranks of one party or the other. But that leads to a reflection not altogether so creditable to gentlemen opposite. It is rather humiliating to them and to the whole of us that they could not be in a position to call so estimable a gentleman, to the Senate of Canada without stultifying themselves before the people of the country, because as a political party they have put themselves on record as declaring it immoral to hold out prominent positions of this kind before members of the House of Commons. It is no fault of the hon. gentleman who has been called to this House. He is blameless in the matter. Hon. gentlemen on this side of the House believe that no wrong is done in calling a member of the House of Commons, who has ripe experience to this House; but hon. gentlemen opposite laid down a different doctrine. My hon. friend (Mr. Mills) shakes his head. That is the way with our friends. One of these gentlemen propounds a doctrine and they are understood to say Yea, yea and amens to it; but afterwards, when it does not suit their purpose, we find one after another shirk the responsibility attaching to their doctrine. The present Postmaster General went so far in the House of Commons in 1896 as to introduce a bill providing that no member of the House of Commons could accept a permanent position, with emoluments attached, from the Crown, until after he had ceased to be a member of the House of Commons for one year, and he made a speech in support of it, in which he repeated the views that had been expressed on the platform and in the country and which were announced scores of times in my own province by representative Liberals as an accepted doctrine of the party. We hold to no such view as that. I do not agree with the principle laid down by the Postmaster General and supported in a very remarkable speech by him in the Commons and endorsed very fully by a gentleman who spoke on that occasion, and who held up his hands in horror at the evil that he saw rampant in the land in dangling positions before members of Parliament—I speak of a gentleman who was then a member of the House of Commons but who has since been appointed to a judgeship in the province of Ontario. The first paragraph of the address refers