

tributes something towards the furtherance of the world's progress. Let us then congratulate ourselves on having the opportunity in this land of Canada of doubling up as it were and contributing to that admirable work the capabilities of our twofold ancestry. Accordingly, I repeat it, I rejoice at the conclusion of the treaty with France, for it will strengthen the entente cordiale.

Let the French literature and French art develop more and more in this Dominion; we who speak the French language will contribute to the greatness of our country, those qualities which have made France great. And in the meantime, let those who speak another language continue to develop that spirit of enterprise, that energy and those talents which have made England powerful.

Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to second the motion of the hon. member for Peterborough.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Carleton, Ont.) Mr. Speaker, I am sure that on this side of the House, we all join in the congratulations which the hon. member who moved this address (Mr. Hall) extended to the right hon. Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) upon his recent attainment of an additional birthday. I am rapidly arriving at that stage of life when I am not specially fond of these congratulations, especially when they call attention to my advancing years. I do not know how it may be with the Prime Minister in this regard, but, at all events, it is needless to say that we join most sincerely and heartily in the congratulations which have been thus extended by the hon. member who moved this address. Let me also congratulate both the mover and seconder of the address upon the very excellent speeches which they have made—speeches moderate and reasonable in their character for the most part except in so far as they endeavoured to attribute the prosperity of this country in past years to this very benign and benevolent government. I notice that my hon. friend the member for Peterborough boasted very much of the surpluses which have been piled up in recent years. Apparently he did it in ignorance of some bygone expressions of opinion from the Minister of Finance to which I will take an opportunity of drawing attention later on. I was also constrained to observe that in the illustrations of judicious expenditure which were brought to the attention of the House by the honourable mover of this address he did not for a very good reason include the Moncton land deal, the North Atlantic Trading Company, the Arctic expedition, or payments to the Yukon rainmaker. He also spoke of the great work done by the Post Office Department of this country. If he had been traversing this country from east to west as I have been doing some recent

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weeks, he would have found that there is an almost continual complaint in all parts of the country of the inadequacy of the postal facilities, and attention is called on every hand to the fact that letters which ought to be delivered in one or two days often take a week or ten days before they reach the persons for whom they are designed. Under these circumstances it does not seem to me that there is very great cause of congratulation to the country that the Post Office Department, year after year, is piling up a surplus when the postal service throughout the country, out of the mouths of business men and others, is denounced in terms, which I would hardly care to repeat in this House to-day.

Now, we have not yet had from either the mover or seconder of the address—we could hardly expect it from them—or from the Prime Minister himself, or any member of this government, any explanation of the cabinet changes which have been made since the last session of parliament closed. Attention was called to the fact that Mr. Aylesworth, whose indisposition we all most sincerely regret, was called from outside of the parliamentary ranks of the Liberal party to take the position of Postmaster General of this country, and I think that the Prime Minister himself on that occasion, as well as on other occasions when there had been very great delay in filling vacancies in the government, laid the cause to the excess of good material which is to be found in the ranks of his followers behind him. Let me say that perhaps that excuse has become just a little stale and possibly to-day he may give some better reason for having passed over every one of the gentlemen who sit behind him, for having gone outside of this House and for having selected the two hon. gentlemen whom I see to-day occupying the positions of Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Graham) and of Minister of Public Works (Mr. Pugsley). Now, I do not know what the explanation of this somewhat extraordinary circumstance is. Was there no one among the one hundred and twenty-five or one hundred and thirty gentlemen who sit on the government benches to-day whom the Prime Minister deemed worthy to sit beside him round the council board of the country? I do not know what the explanation may be. We have given to many hon. gentlemen who sit behind the Prime Minister the deserved credit for possessing a fair amount of capacity and business ability, for having a good reputation not only in this House but throughout the country as well. When we find the Prime Minister passing over all these gentlemen, going outside the House and selecting two gentlemen who, however, eminent they may be, are perhaps, after all not so surpassingly superior to some gentlemen who may be found behind the Prime Minister and the cabinet, it is natural that the attention of