

ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE SPEECH  
FROM THE THRONE—*Con.*

Public Works. Surely the Prime Minister after the position he has taken in this House is not going to tolerate what would not be tolerated in Russia, 285. The member for Macdonald should resign, and if he is an honourable member I expect he will. Ready to discuss Saskatchewan election with Minister of Public Works. He can boss Manitoba and dominate this government, but when it comes to Saskatchewan we are ready to try a fall with him, 285.

*Turgeon, O.* (Gloucester)—128.

Acadian representation in the Senate, 128. A subject of vital importance to maritime provinces, 129. Reciprocity: the experience of the last year has only served to make that arrangement dearer to hearts and minds of Canadian people. Never anticipated he could have obtained for Canada an open market. I should consider myself less than a true British subject if I had not sufficient intelligence to be able to go to a foreign country to buy or sell without affecting my loyalty, 130. My people have suffered during the last year from the want of reciprocity. Had we not had some access to the United States, half our lumber camps would have been closed. Ever since then a marked increase in the importation of British goods, 131. With reciprocity and our further increase in British preference we might have secured permanency of tariff of which Minister of Finance has spoken. For a large part of the product of maritime province, fisheries, there is no other than the American market. Our trade with Great Britain and United States. If advisable for manufacturers to look for wider markets, why not farmers of the West?—132. Trade agreement with West Indies. Benefits cannot be compared to those offered by access to markets of the United States, 132. The naval question, 133. Macdonald election. In corroboration of Mr. Oliver's statement, reads letter from son in Alberta, 134. He was followed by policeman and threatened with arrest if he spoke in favour of reciprocity, 135.

*White, Hon. Wm. T.* (Finance Minister)—84-85.

If Providence had been weeping over defeat of administration last September, had in this regard plenty of company among hon. gentlemen opposite. Regarding cut in cement duties. Leader of opposition overlooked fact that this government had taken similar course in connection with duty upon coal. Hon. gentleman was more concerned about his friend and chief adviser, the head of the cement merger in Canada, 85. Repudiates charge that government reduced cement duties because of pending election in Saskatchewan. Action of government was founded upon highest consideration of public interest. Charges based on obscure journal. An extra-

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ordinary thing for a statesman of his experience. Hope to lay before House such evidence as will convince both sides that action of government was abundantly justified. Hon. friend from Edmonton in favour of cement duties, but agreed with his leader. No one ever knew of him to take a different position, 86. In no part of Canada is question of cement a more important one than in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, and yet hon. gentlemen opposite repudiate action of government. Will withdraw statement if hon. gentleman will satisfy me in what respect I have made an error. Will convince hon. friend that his statements are entirely baseless. Challenged to prove that government's action taken under authority of statute for which late administration was equally responsible. Permission to reduce duties only granted by statute in cases where the government considers it advisable in public interest. If same conditions exist to-day as in June last, extraordinary thing nobody except hon. friend raised protest against duties being resumed. Gentleman who wrote letter to Prime Minister intended it should be published and made use of by leader of the opposition, 87-88. Basis of letter a statement that assurance had been given cement manufacturers last winter that no changes would be made in tariff. Rule of department that no statements regarding changes in tariff are made except to parliament. Curry quite capable of taking care of himself. To prove wilful character of misrepresentation in letter to Prime Minister, and to show that no understanding was entered into as alleged, reads letter from James Pearson, of Toronto, requesting rigid enforcement of dumping provisions of Customs Act, 88-90. Letter proves that not even by implication were representations made that anything would or would not be done. Explains section 92 of Consolidated Revenue and Audit Act. Statement made in letter of acting Prime Minister at that date that there was no intention of reducing duty on cement was true. Matter of shortage of cement brought definitely to the attention of government on May 31st, 1912. (Reads letter of National Paving and Cement Company), 90. Lost no time in making inquiry. General manager of cement company in Toronto admitted unable to supply cement requirements in West—could not get cars or boats for shipment. (Reads letter of June 5 from Saskatoon Building Exchange: City completely tied up for 14 days through lack of cement, through failure of merger to meet immense losses to contractors. Urged to suspend duty). They wanted all the duty off. Why contractors could not pay duty. Canadian cement lower in West than American plus freight and duty. Would have to pay higher rate because could not get delivery from cement companies in Eastern Canada. (Reads telegram from Mr. Isbester, president of the Sas-