

THE ADDRESS.

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON resumed the debate on the address—he said : I did not intend to take any part in the debate upon the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, because I have always thought it better to follow the British practice if possible, and leave discussion on the Address to Ministers of the Crown and the leader of the Opposition. The debate of yesterday, however, took a wide range, and the friends of the Government, especially my hon. friend from Prince Edward Island, seemed determined that the debate should extend, and that the Address should not be carried, as it might have been, at a comparatively early hour yesterday afternoon. In the course of the debate so many questions were touched in which I feel a special interest, that I consider it my duty to address the House. Before entering on the subject of the Address, if the mover of the resolutions will allow me to do so, I will congratulate him and the House upon his accession to the Senate. The facility and felicity with which he addressed the House yesterday, in the language which is most familiar to the great majority of us, was exceedingly gratifying, and his experience as a merchant cannot fail to be of great service to the House. I have no doubt after a short time he will shake himself free of party fetters—if he is fettered by party, and I don't know that he is, for I am not personally acquainted with him—and take an unpartizan view of the proceedings of this House. We are told in the Speech from the Throne that, in summoning us again to the despatch of business, His Excellency is pleased to say that nothing beyond the ordinary business of the country has called us together. This is the fifth time under the auspices of the present Government that this paragraph has been substantially repeated. There has been little or no important legislation during the present Parliament. Now, when we consider the outlay attending every Session of Parliament, it really behooves us to consider whether there cannot be some more economical manner of voting the supplies adopted. That is almost all of importance that we are bound here to do. The cost of legislation is six hundred thousand dollars per Session, making the sum of three millions of dollars for the Parliament. Now,

Hon. Mr. Macpherson,

I put it to hon. gentlemen, has the country got value during this Parliament for this large sum? The cost of legislation to the four millions of people of this country, I venture to say, is unparalleled in the experience of any other four millions of people in the world. I would like to say a very few words with reference to the Governor-General and his departure from the country. He has, I take it, seen more of Canada, knows more of its resources, and has described them more graphically than has been done by the pen or tongue of any other. He possess in a high degree the rare gift of always saying the best thing at the best time, and in the best manner. I believe he is as true a Canadian as any citizen of the Dominion. I feel satisfied that in him Canada will always have a warm and constant friend, and I know I express not only the sentiment of this House, but of every man in the country, when I say that his departure will cause universal regret. He will carry away with him the best wishes of the people of this country for the happiness and prosperity of himself, Lady Dufferin, and family. I am exceedingly glad that the Fisheries Commission arrived at an award. All who know Sir Alexander Galt will know that he brought to bear on that subject a great amount of talent—as great probably as any other man in the country could have brought to bear upon it, and while he may not have got all we consider ourselves entitled to, I believe he did right to accept the award. I agree with the hon. Senator from St. John, who seconded the Address, that a settlement was of more importance than the amount. With respect to the Exhibition that has taken place at Sydney, New South Wales, and the one to take place this year at Paris, I am very glad the Government took steps to have us suitably represented at the former, and are taking steps to have us properly represented at Paris. I hope, in sending the specimens of what this country produces and manufactures, that they will send such specimens as may induce and extend trade with other countries. I think that very great good ought to result from those exhibitions. I do not know that much benefit has resulted so far, but it is an advantage to our people, to our manufacturers, to visit them. It is good for