

In conclusion, let me say that I am proud personally to have the honour of moving the Address upon this occasion, proud as a Canadian of the position which Canada is attaining in the eyes of the world, proud as a British subject of the place which the Dominion will some day hold with manly assurance, national confidence, and imperial loyalty in that great structure reared by our forefathers which we call the British Empire.

Hon. Mr. THORNE—I rise to speak this afternoon with considerable diffidence, and perhaps a greater amount of embarrassment. My first parliamentary experience was when I was introduced and sworn in as a member of this honourable body. I trust, however, that after this session's experience I shall be able to appreciate this body and feel more at home among the distinguished members of the Senate than I do at the present moment.

My predecessor who moved the Address has dealt very voluminously in statistics and figures which, they say, speak louder than words. It is therefore not my intention to deal with figures. Rather shall I speak, for a few moments, on what I have seen and the conclusion I have arrived at.

The first clause in the speech from the Throne alludes to the serious illness of Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Connaught. It touches, I think, the heart of every Canadian, and the sympathy and gratitude of every citizen goes out to Her Royal Highness in her recovery and return to this country, thus enabling His Royal Highness to resume his manifold duties in the high office which he occupies. It was my pleasure on one of their tours to meet their Royal Highnesses in the city of St. John. They have travelled from the Atlantic to the Pacific and I venture to say that every citizen who has had the pleasure of seeing and meeting them will, for many years to come, through the strong affection they have for the Royal family, remember with pleasure the kindly way in which they met the people of the different cities and places they visited, and the interest they took in the industries of the different localities they visited.

The other paragraphs of the Speech deal largely with transportation and the prosperity of Canada. I do not intend to take up these clauses, but in a general way to give you an idea of what I have observed, and to say a few words with regard to the condition of this country to-day, and with

Hon. Mr. MASON.

regard to what I believe will take place in the future. I think it was in 1901 that I first visited the Northwest. I left St. John with the idea of going over that vast country, left with a feeling of doubt as to the capabilities of that country and what its future might be, to the east, and to the people who lived in the east, and were largely brought into indebtedness for the opening up of that great country. The Canadian Pacific railway had been constructed and was running through from the Atlantic to the Pacific, for only a few years. The speeches that had been made by those in opposition upon the acquisition of the great Northwest, and during the proposition to build the great highway by the Government of Canada, were ringing in my ears, and naturally I had some doubts as to what might be the future of that country for which we were accumulating such a vast debt at that time. The first place I visited in the Northwest was Fort William. It was then simply a muddy village, I might say, with a few dredges working to make deep water for the steamers coming there, and having very few inhabitants. I visited Port Arthur, the adjoining town, which was in a more flourishing condition at that time. Then I visited Winnipeg which, at that time, was said to have about fifty or sixty thousand inhabitants. During my stay there I recollect we had a couple of days of rain which made it very difficult to cross some parts of the streets. I visited the town of Brandon, and had the pleasure of meeting the Hon. Mr. Kirchhoffer, who was very kind. I viewed for the first time vast areas under cultivation in grain, and the flourishing little town, at that time, of Brandon. I visited other towns in crossing the great prairies, and saw at that season of the year the magnificent wheat fields that were just about being harvested.

The towns that we visited were going ahead and the inhabitants were optimistic. We at last landed in Calgary at that time a city of about 5,000 inhabitants. We then had the pleasure of a picturesque ride over the Rockies, and Selkirks, stopping at Banff and other places of note in that district. We visited Kootenay and other places. Everyone talked mining and the richness of the mines. We visited Vancouver, which had then twenty-five or thirty thousand inhabitants. What impressed me was the many vacant lots in that small town, and the stumps of trees which had been