

Speech of the Governor General.

The following is a report of the speech of His Excellency, the EARL OF DUFFERIN, Governor General of Canada, at a *Dejeuner*, at Winnipeg, Manitoba, on September 20th, 1877, in reply to the toast, "the Governor General of Canada," coupled with the name of Lady Dufferin. His Excellency in rising to reply was received with loud and prolonged cheering. He said:

Mr. Mayor, Your Honor, Ladies and Gentlemen:

In rising to express my acknowledgements to the citizens of Winnipeg for thus crowning the friendly reception I have received throughout the length and breadth of Manitoba by so noble an entertainment, I am painfully oppressed by the consideration of the many respects in which my thanks are due to you, and to so many other persons in the Province. From our first landing on your quays until the present moment, my progress through the country has been one continual delight, nor has the slightest hitch or incongruous incident marred the satisfaction of my visit. I have to thank you for the hospitalities I have enjoyed at the hands of your individual citizens, as well as of a multitude of independent communities, for the tasteful and ingenious decorations which adorned my route, for the quarter of a mile of evenly-yoked oxen that drew our triumphal car, [applause] for the universal proofs of your loyalty to the Throne and the Mother Country, and for your personal good-will towards Her Majesty's representative. Above all, I have to thank you for the evidences produced on either hand along our march of your prosperous condition, of your perfect contentment, of your happy confidence in your future fortunes,—for I need not tell you that to any one in my situation, smiling cornfields, cosy homesteads, the joyful faces of prosperous men and women, and the laughter of healthy children, are the best of all triumphal decorations. [Great applause.]

But there are other things for which I ought to be obliged to you, and not the least for the beautiful weather you have taken the precaution to provide us with during some six weeks of perpetual camping out, for which attention I have received Lady Dufferin's special orders to render you her personal thanks—an attention which the unusual phenomenon of a casual water-spout enabled us only the better to appreciate; and lastly, though certainly not least, for not having generated

amongst you that fearful entity, "a Pacific Railway question"—at all events not in those dire and tragic proportions in which I have encountered it elsewhere. [Loud applause.] Of course, I know a certain phase of the question is agitating even this community, but it has assumed the mild character of a domestic rather than of an inter-Provincial controversy. Two distinguished members, moreover, of my present Government have been lately amongst you, and have doubtless acquainted themselves with your views and wishes. It is not necessary, therefore, that I should mar the hilarious character of the present festival by any untimely allusions to so grave a matter. Well then, ladies and gentlemen, what am I to say and do to you in return for all the pleasure and satisfaction I have received at your hands? I fear there is very little that I can say, and scarcely anything that I can do, commensurate with my obligations. Stay—there is one thing at all events I think I have already done, for which I am entitled to claim your thanks. You are doubtless aware that a great political controversy has for some time raged between the two great parties of the state as to which one of them is responsible for the visitation of that terror of two continents—the Colorado bug. [Great laughter.] The one side is disposed to assert that if their opponents had never acceded to power, the Colorado bug would never have come to Canada. [Renewed laughter.] I have reason to believe, however, though I know not whether any substantial evidence has been adduced in support of their assertion, that my Government deny and repudiate having had any sort of concert or understanding with that irrepressible invader. [Roars of laughter.] It would be highly unconstitutional for me, who am bound to hold a perfectly impartial balance between the two great factions of the state, to pronounce an opinion upon this momentous question. [Renewed and long-continued laughter.] But however disputable a point may be the prime and original authorship of the Colorado bug, there is one fact no one will question, namely, that to the presence of the Governor-General in Manitoba is to be attributed the sudden, total, otherwise unaccountable, and, I trust, permanent disappearance, not only from this Province, but from the whole Northwest of the infamous and unmentionable "hopper," [loud laughter] whose frequent visitations for the last few years have proved so distressing to the agricultural interests of the entire region.

But apart from being the

fortunate instrument of conferring this benefit upon you, I fear the only further return in my power is to assure you of my great sympathy with you in your endeavors to do justice to the material advantages with which your Province has been so richly endowed by the hands of Providence. [Applause.] From its geographical position, and its peculiar characteristics,

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may be regarded as the keystone of that mighty arch of sister provinces which spans the entire continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific. [Loud cheering.] It was here that Canada, emerging from her woods and forests, first gazed upon her rolling prairies and unexplored Northwest, and learned, as by an unexpected revelation, that her historical territories of the Canadas, her eastern seaboard of New Brunswick, Labrador, Nova Scotia, her Laurentian lakes and valleys, cornlands and pastures, though themselves more extensive than half a dozen European Kingdoms, [tremendous applause] were but the vestibules and antechambers to that, till then, undreamt-of Dominion, whose limitless dimensions alike confound the arithmetic of the surveyor, and the verification of the explorer. [Continued applause.] It was hence that, counting her past achievements as but the preface and prelude to her future exertions and expanding destinies, she took a fresh departure, received the afflatus of a more Imperial inspiration, and felt herself no longer a mere settler along the banks of a single river, but the owner of half a continent, and, in the amplitude of her possession, in the wealth of her resources, in the sinews of her material might, the peer of any power on the earth. [Great cheering.]

In a recently remarkably witty speech the Marquis of Salisbury alluded to the

GEOGRAPHICAL MISCONCEPTION

often engendered by the smallness of the maps upon which the figure of the world is depicted. To this cause is probably to be attributed the inadequate idea entertained by the best educated persons of the extent of Her Majesty's North American possessions. Perhaps the best way of correcting such a universal misapprehension would be by a summary of the rivers which flow through them, for we know that as a poor man cannot afford to live in a big house so a small country cannot support a big river. [Applause.] Now to an Englishman or a Frenchman the Severn or the Thames, the Self or the Rhone, would appear considerable streams,