

few words with respect to the Address; and I shall try to be as brief as I reasonably can; and also shall endeavor not to repeat what has been said by the hon. gentleman from Ottawa. I must, however, repeat to a certain extent what he said at the beginning of his speech. I feel, as a Nova Scotian, gratified that a gentleman from my Province has been selected to preside over the deliberations of this House. I think that the House itself should be gratified at the choice the Government have made, because the hon. gentleman who has been selected to fill the Chair is one who has been a most prominent, active, and useful member of this House ever since Confederation, and he is, I think, in every way entitled to the position which he holds for services rendered in his place as a member of this House. I am always pleased to see governments pay proper regard to and recognize ability, and long service of the public. I must also join with the hon. gentleman from Ottawa, in complimenting the mover and seconder of the Address. The hon. gentleman from DeLorimier who moved the Address in reply to the Speech, is a practised, eloquent speaker as we all knew. He is also, as most of us are aware, a lawyer of the Bar of Quebec, perhaps not without a rival, but one, at all events, who has none above him. I think the House and the Government are to be congratulated on the appointment of the hon. gentleman to a seat in this House. The duties of this House, as far as it has political duties other than those of a partizan character, are those of revising and amending the sometimes hasty legislation which we get from the other Chamber; and the hon. gentleman is one of the best qualified men in the Province of Quebec to aid in discharging these duties. The hon. gentleman's arrival in the Senate was the more opportune, because the appointment of the hon. senator from Richmond to the Chair deprived the House of the valuable services which we had from him for several years.

I can only express regret, on the other hand, that the Government have not been able to appoint an English-speaking lawyer also, whose presence in the House is the more necessary, on account of the

promotion of the hon. gentleman from Richmond.

I quite concur in the sentiments that have been expressed as to His Excellency the Governor General. His antecedents are good; and I hope that after he has served for some time in his present capacity we shall be able to speak of him as being perhaps even more than a worthy successor of the noblemen who have preceded him.

Turning to the Speech from the Throne; I see that the second paragraph demolishes a theory which was very popular some years ago, and belies a great many by-gone prophecies. The theory was, and it was laid down as though it were a gospel truth, and not a theory, that the more money you took out of the pockets of the people of this country the better off they would be. This paragraph seems to admit that that is not always the case. The prophecies were, and we had them made no longer ago than last year in another place by the hon. Minister of Finance, that we were to have at least seven years more of prosperity. This paragraph—and I am rather surprised that the hon. gentleman whom I have just named should have joined in inserting such a paragraph in the Speech—admits that the Finance Minister, when he made that bold statement last year, was a false prophet.

As to the 3rd paragraph, which speaks of the Fisheries Exhibition in London, I quite concur in the sentiments that have been expressed by the mover and seconder of the Address. I was not aware, until I heard the statement from the hon. gentleman who moved the Address that Mr. Joncas had taken so prominent a position in connection with the Commission. I have glanced at the report which has been published, and it did not strike me that there was any remarkable ability shown in the paper read by Mr. Joncas, and I was struck by the fact that his statistics were not altogether reliable. However, the hon. gentleman from DeLorimier has given the subject more attention than I have, and I do not venture to contradict him very positively.

The 4th paragraph is one which I individually take a good deal of interest in; that is the paragraph which refers to the consolidation of the statutes. I rejoice, as we all do, I presume, to know that some