

has shown us greater heroes in defeat than in victory and Hon. Sidney Fisher is one of these. The hon. member for Chambly-Verchères stated that the only things ever done for agriculture by the late government was to appoint a farmer as Minister of Agriculture. That was the first step for the benefit of agriculture, but it was not all. My hon. friend (Mr. Rainville) forgets, if he ever knew, that among other important advances made for the welfare of the Canadian farmer, have been the institution of a complete equipment of cold storage refrigeration transportation; the establishment of a complete and systematic supervision and inspection of the handling and marketing of Canadian food products from the place of production in Canada to the markets of England, the appointment of the live stock commissioners, the creation of the seed branch, the reorganization of the veterinary department, and many other reforms; besides attempting to enter into a trade agreement with the United States which would have been a benefit to every farmer in Canada. This agreement was, as every one knows, an indirect, but enormous factor in the defeat of the late government. I say indirect, because the government was defeated not upon the merits of the trade agreement, but by the ultra-loyalty cry to which it gave rise, and by the sentiment—call it something else if you like—which it awakened and brought forth from the Manufacturers' Association and other sources.

Many hon. members have said that we on this side are not all agreed upon the question of fact as to whether reciprocity is dead or not. They are mistaken. We are all agreed that Canada has refused a great opportunity which she may never again have the chance to accept, and in this sense we agree that reciprocity is dead. But the Liberal party in Canada to-day still stands for wider markets for the Canadian farmer. We believe that the free exchange of natural products would be of immense advantage to the country. We believe that Canadians are just as loyal to the British Crown as are the inhabitants of the British Isles, and that like them we can trade with the people of the United States without fear of being led into political union. We shall continue to preach the doctrine of international good will. We shall continue to be the party of the people against the trusts; of the masses against the classes. We have been called traitors and annexationists. We resent the sneers and insults levelled at our loyalty, but these sneers and those insults will not lessen our love for Canada, nor will they lessen our labours, or our efforts to make our country the greatest and grandest of all nations.

Hon. CHAS. MURPHY (Russell). Mr. Speaker, it is not in a spirit of mere

compliance with custom that I desire to add my congratulations to those which previous speakers have tendered to the mover (Mr. R. B. Bennett) and the second (Mr. Sevigny) of the address for the very acceptable way in which they discharged the duties assigned to them at the opening of this parliament. In complimenting both these hon. gentlemen, I do so because I feel that they deserve all that has been said in their praise.

And, in this connection, let me express my appreciation of the manner in which hon. gentlemen opposite felicitated the right hon. the leader of the opposition (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) upon attaining his 70th birthday. The cordiality, the evident sincerity, of their felicitations reminded me of an incident that happened while the late Lord Russell of Killowen, was addressing the court as chief counsel for Mr. Parnell in his famous case against the London 'Times.' Associated in that case with Lord Russell—then Sir Charles Russell—as junior counsel, was Mr. Asquith, now Prime Minister of Great Britain. In the course of his address Sir Charles Russell happened to disarrange his papers, and they fell unnoticed by him to the floor. Not finding them at hand when he required a reference a few moments later, he asked: 'Where are my papers?' Mr. Asquith, who was in the act of picking them up, answered 'At your feet, Sir, where we all are.' The words in which hon. gentlemen opposite conveyed their congratulations to my right hon. leader may not have been the words used by Mr. Asquith on the occasion to which I have referred; but their tributes no less accurately described the position of my right hon. friend in this parliament than did Mr. Asquith's tribute at the time it was uttered, describe Sir Charles Russell's position at the English bar.

Before passing to the consideration of this amendment, let me congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, upon your elevation to the high and honourable position which you now occupy. I have no doubt, Sir, that you will carry out your expressed intention of preserving an impartial attitude between the parties in this House. And speaking as a member of the opposition, I can assure you, Sir, that you will always find the members on this side of the House ready and willing to co-operate with you in maintaining the decorum of debate.

Now, Sir, the principle embodied in the amendment which has been placed in your hands by the right hon. the leader of the opposition, is one of the most important that can engage the attention of this House. In point of fact, it goes to the very root of responsible government. To object it will be to declare that the Conservative party has decided to substitute emergency rule for constitutional government in this