

who dares to come to us and announce, as one with authority, that we are at the parting of the ways? (Loud applause). How does it fit in, so to speak, Sir, with the situation in this country?

A HAPPY, CONTENTED, PROSPEROUS PEOPLE.

How does it fit in, I say, with the situation here, and why is it that the distinguished head of the Government of the United States is so interested in us and in our future? And I would like also to hear from him, Sir, as to when Canada became cognizant that she was at the parting of the ways, and that in a few weeks, more or less, she would decide her political future, as this distinguished gentleman chooses to indicate. Up to a few weeks ago, Mr. Speaker, the Canadian people were happy and contented and prosperous—thanks to Divine Providence—prosperous in a measure exceeded by no civilized people within the domain of history. Up to a few weeks ago, Sir, that was the position of the people of Canada, and we were contentedly marching along the pathway which had been ours for so many years, which had been ours for generations, and along which we always expected to go, looking forward to peace and prosperity, and our pathway, leading up to the permanence and continuity of British institutions on this continent and to the concentration and strengthening of the British Empire everywhere. (Applause). Up to a few weeks ago, Sir, that was the situation here, and then comes this cryptic utterance from the distinguished head of a foreign state that Canada is at the parting of the ways, and, without warning, without notice, a new pathway, a pathway leading away from that which had been ours, and which will be ours, Mr. Speaker (Loud applause)—without warning, I say, a new pathway leading away from our present pathway was indicated by this foreign authority, and the people of Canada are told that they must now choose. And, coincident with this remarkable utterance, coincident with the remarkable utterances of other distinguished statesmen in the United States, coincident with the resolutions passed by legislatures of some of the States, coincident with the exposition all over the United States of the practically unanimous intention and desire to annex the Dominion of Canada, and the plea that this proceeding was the first stage towards it—coincident with these occurrences, Mr. J. J. Hill, a Canadian once himself, who has spent the last two years of his life in getting Mr. Taft up to his present position, this Mr. J. J. Hill says to the people of the United States: "You have now your