

House must feel that in the accession to their number of the two hon. gentlemen who moved and seconded the Address to-day, the House has been strengthened, and we, on this side in particular, are proud and happy that those gentlemen are reckoned among their number. The hon. gentleman worthily compliments those two gentlemen; but he cannot check himself from making an unpleasant allusion, which was altogether uncalled for. Why, Mr. Speaker, we agree with the hon. gentleman who sits behind him, that in all cases respecting seats, the members, in all cases respecting the right to sit in this House, agree that there should be no politics, there should be no partisan feeling; that we should act in a judicial spirit, and yet the hon. gentleman has shown by his sneer, in reference to two young members of this House, the member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague), and the member for Queen's, N.B. (Mr. Baird), that he has prejudged both their cases. I would ask the hon. member who moved in the case of Queen's county—when this House adjourns and when he has a private and confidential conversation with his leader—to give him a warning that it would be just as well to avoid that kind of acrimony, and not so quickly show his partisanship and desire to fight the battle too strongly. The hon. gentleman, in his recollection of the past, speaks of fifty years ago, and reproves the seconder of this motion for speaking of those days as days of humiliation. Mr. Speaker, they were days of humiliation to all parties, because it is a great humiliation for a country to see, rightly or wrongly, the people of the same race, of the same country, and subjects of the same Government, flying at each other's throats. We were all humiliated in that regard. Thank God! those days have long past. Thank God! there is no longer that war of races. Thank God! we are all loyal subjects of Her Majesty. Thank God! we can all look back and respect those men who fought on one side or on the other, for we know that there was a feeling of right and of justice on both sides, that both sides of those who were drawn up in hostile array judged they were acting rightly and conscientiously. But those days of humiliation, those days of misery, those days of conflict are now gone, and we, as the hon. gentleman who has seconded the motion has truly said, can look back with philosophy upon those unhappy days and those wretched and miserable events. The hon. gentleman spoke with some good feeling, and very proper feeling, about one of the earliest exponents of political freedom and of the earliest advocates of responsible government, and mentioned the honored name of the Hon. Joseph Howe. But we can all remember how that honored statesman, when sinking in this House under the weight of disease, and of years of unhappy circumstances, was hounded and vilified by some of the hon. gentlemen who cheered the leader of the Opposition to-day when he paid that deserved compliment to the father of responsible government in the Maritime Provinces. The hon. gentleman, referring to the fishery question, said there has been a great deal of reticence and but little ventilation of that great subject. Sir, there was but little opportunity for ventilation. The subject is well understood in this House; the subject is well understood in this country. The rights of Canada on that question were ventilated years and years ago, were understood years ago and were asserted years ago; and they were asserted in this House, asserted on the statute-book and by the protection of those lawful rights and interests along our maritime shores and coasts. The negotiations going on since must, of course, until something like a result is arrived at, be kept from the public eye. The result so far has been a series of negotiations, a series of interchange of views, and we are permitted to hope that the negotiations will result in an arrangement honorable to both nations, and fully protecting the legal rights and interests of the people of Canada. But in the present uncertainty of the negotiations, and more than all in the great uncertainty as to

whether, if a result is arrived at between the two Governments, it will be sanctioned by the legislative bodies of the two countries, especially by the Congress of the United States, it would have been unwise in the advisers of the Crown to have used stronger language than has been inserted in the Speech. I quite agree in all that has been said respecting the progress and development of our trade and commerce; but I was not prepared for the sneer of the hon. gentleman as to one of the modes which have been adopted by the Government for the development of the trade and commerce of the country. The hon. gentleman says he hopes there are some other steps to be taken than making a new departure. The hon. gentleman must know that from year to year the different Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade of Canada have been representing to the different Governments of the country, have been petitioning and applying for the establishment of such a Department as is proposed, and for the appointment of a Minister specially charged with the interests of trade and the development of the commerce of the Dominion. I have evidence of this desire from every great city in Canada and from every great commercial body formed for the purpose of aiding in the development of trade, and in obedience to this universal cry the Government have resolved to establish a Department specially devoted to those subjects. I am proud to say in this House, I am proud to say it everywhere in Canada, that the establishment of a Bureau of Trade and Commerce is not the only evidence this Government has given of its desire and of its success in developing the trade and commerce of the country. I shall not enter into all the particulars to prove that, it is not necessary in this House. The majority of this House explained that fully to their various constituents before they became their representatives, and the voice of the country has declared it in unmistakable terms. The people supported the Government at the last election because it had been true to the material interests of the Dominion, because it had forwarded all those material interests; and if Canada enjoys at this moment a great degree of prosperity, if her commerce is in a flourishing state, if her people are happy and contented and are looking forward with great hope to the future, it is in a great measure due to the judicious steps and the persistency with which the Government has pursued that which is the one great object in a new country, the development of all its material and social interests. Mr. Speaker, I shall say no more just now. The hon. gentleman has stated that the bill of fare is rather meagre. I shall not go so far as my late revered friend, Sir George Cartier, who on one occasion said in this House that he would never be satisfied till the only measure brought down by the Government of the Day would be the Supply Bill. But in consequence of the general elections taking place in the beginning of the year, which could not be brought on earlier because the rolls under the new Franchise Act had not been completed in many parts of the country, and the premature hurrying on of the elections would have excluded very many of those to whom the Franchise Bill had given the right to vote, this House has met later in the spring than usual. I have no doubt that hon. gentlemen on both sides of the House will be very glad indeed, considering that we have got a good body of laws on the statute book and have got them in such a form, revised as they are, that every man can understand them, will be gratified and satisfied at very little general legislation being undertaken this year. I am glad to see, Sir, that the amount of Private Bill legislation of every form to be introduced this Session for the purpose of advancing almost every industry in Canada, and assisting in the development of our material and physical resources, affords a strong evidence of the enterprise and prosperity of the country and of the feeling in Canada that we are in a prosperous condition, and that we are entering on a

Mr. Speaker

*See page 11 for record*