

as to the result of the application of one of his tests of prosperity. He said he believed that the failures had decreased during the current year. My recollection of the reports of the Dunn and Bradstreet agencies from which we derive our information in this regard, is that the failures have very greatly increased this year as compared with last year. I do not hold that these failures have increased to an alarming extent, yet I do hold that the indication of increasing prosperity to which the hon. gentleman directed us as a test, proves, if it proves anything, the reverse of that which he intended. Now, Sir, one other point with reference to the statement of the hon. member. He adverted to the high prices and the values of the fisheries this year. I do not know whether the hon. gentleman attributed that to the fiscal policy of the Administration, but I believe the Administration is no more responsible for that high price than it is responsible for the lower price of grain, though according to the views of hon. gentlemen opposite, there is a credit to be attached to them for the high prices which obtained for grain in former years, and it would be only fair to charge them with the responsibility for that fall in grain which has struck so many faithful friends of theirs in the rural communities with dismay—who believed that so long as the Conservative party were in power under their present leader, he would make such arrangements in the markets of the world that wheat would always be high. Now the price of fish is high. It is due to what, I suppose, we must thank Providence for, the failure in the fisheries of other countries, the failures of the fisheries of Norway, and to a considerable extent, those of Newfoundland, which have diminished the supply of fish, and of course increased the value. I am glad to say there is a considerable prospect of the extension of our fishing industry under these circumstances, and more vessels are under construction with a view of taking advantage of the favorable tide. I suppose the hon. gentleman would attribute these results to the bounty of \$2 per head, which was prescribed by the Act of last Session, but which has not yet been obtained. It seems to me the causes to which I have referred are more likely to have produced them than the hon. gentleman's bounty. There is an omission or two in the Speech which, I think, deserve attention. In the first place, the foreign trade negotiations. The Speech for 1879 announced a negotiation for the development of trade with France, Spain and the colonies. The Speech for 1880 declared that the increased foreign trade of Canada, and the proposed Imperial negotiations, demanded our closest attention and watchfulness and required a representative in London. But upon this subject the Speech is mute to-day. We have nothing conveyed to us in this authentic fashion, and the ordinary sources of information tell us that the negotiations which have been going on, more or less, almost ever since the Administration came in, have now been postponed until after the completion of the negotiations for a commercial treaty between France and the United Kingdom—another proof of the wisdom of the step which we proposed to Parliament last Session, that we still obtain a greater measure of freedom in the conduct and maturing of our own commercial relations. Once again a former Speech ushered in a subject with paeans of joy, and upon that subject there is an ominous silence to-day—the poor *Charybdis*. I recollect when I heard read the Speech in 1881, which declared that, "Her Majesty's Government has generously presented to Canada, for training school purposes, the steam corvette *Charybdis*, lately returned from service in the Chinese seas," and promised us the papers on that important subject; and the orators of that day in performing the duty which my hon. friends have just so ably discharged, were enthusiastic over the presentation. The hon. member for West Toronto declared that it formed "a pleasing feature in the Speech. This generous act proves that the Imperial Government still retains its

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sympathies for us." The hon. member for Yamaska was still more gushing. "The Speech," he said, "refers to the generous gift that Her Majesty's Government has just made to Canada, by sending us the splendid steam corvette, *Charybdis*. This gift, that the country accepts with the greatest gratitude, was destined to supply a want long felt in the organization of the forces of the country. We are a maritime people. Perhaps no country in the world possesses a more extensive seaboard than ours, and the interior is covered with lakes and rivers that constitute, as it were, vast inland seas. Nevertheless we are wanting in marines. The training ship is calculated to create this new calling, and our young men will be able to defend the country on the high seas with as much skill and valor as on the land." But where is she now? Why, Sir, you cannot find her, even in the Speech from the Throne. After an expenditure of several tens of thousands of dollars we know nothing about her, except that the newspapers tell us that she has been returned and the gift that was ushered in with so much *eclat*, and the added strength and dignity which was gained by the Administration a couple of years ago having passed away, they have not a word to say about her. They leave her to one side. They pass in silence this subject. If no one else will, let me be permitted to pay my tribute to the departed *Charybdis*. Now, Sir, we are here as a new Parliament to discharge our functions under circumstances which have given to the hon. gentlemen opposite a very decided Parliamentary majority—a majority, as I have proved, far in excess of what the popular vote would have given them—assuring to them the opportunity of executing their own views with reference to the policy of this country, on all points during the natural term of that Parliament. Its political forces are pretty much as the forces of the old Parliament. To hon. gentlemen opposite is given the power to which I have referred, and to us is allotted the task of criticising their transactions, of watching the discharge of their functions, of propounding our views and of proving, as I believe we shall be able to prove, year after year, as experience gives us the opportunity, the soundness of those counter views which we have pressed upon the attention of the Parliament of this country from time to time. While, as I have said, the political constitution of this Parliament, in a Parliamentary sense, is the same as that of the Parliament which preceded it, we know that there are here many new faces, and that there are absent many faces with which we have been familiar, and this Parliament, like other new Parliaments, though similar, in a party sense, will yet form a character of its own, and create a fate—a reputation for itself. Much is in its hands. Upon its prudence, upon its patience, its deliberations, its candor, its moderation, the judgment which it exercises, much will depend. For my part, I will express the hope that, adverse though may be the political complexion of my own views, those deliberations may be of the character to which I have referred; that they may be moderate, careful, candid and patient, and that when its term shall have expired we may all be able to join in the statement that the things which it has done have redounded to the honor and advantage of the land we love and serve.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I certainly can find no fault with the spirit in which my hon. friend has addressed the House on this occasion; and I can cordially join with him, as all this House can do, in his concluding sentences. No matter what our political antecedents may have been, no matter what our political proclivities are, we are all, I believe, true Canadians, anxious to forward the best interests of this country, although our opinions may vary as to the best mode of fostering its prosperity. Although it is not likely that during the present Parliament, any more than the last, I shall be found to agree with my hon. friend