

the address in reply to the speech from the Throne, I must confess that I approach the task with a feeling of diffidence bordering almost upon the point of reluctance; for no one can realize better than myself that my inexperience and ignorance of parliamentary procedure and usage may possibly lead me into errors which I would naturally desired to avoid. I feel further handicapped in being called upon to follow a gentleman who in such eloquent periods has so gracefully expressed sentiments which I am sure are concurred in by a large proportion of this House. I fully realize also the extent to which I must suffer in any attempt to hold the attention of this House by reason of the fact that my predecessor in the County of Yale was a gentleman who, I know, often gave expression to sentiments that were couched in the most graceful and forceful language that could enchain the attention of an assembly such as this. I sincerely trust, therefore, that hon. members will refrain from any comparison between my language and the utterances that from time to time fell from the lips of the former Secretary of State, the hon. Mr. Martin Burrell, whose retirement from active political life, I may say in passing, has caused very widespread regret throughout Yale, and, I feel sure, in other parts of the Dominion as well; and I believe I am but voicing the sentiments of this House when I say that that gentleman carries with him into his new position such knowledge and literary attainments as must eminently qualify him to fulfil the very high expectations of every member who was associated with him for so long in his valuable services in this House.

At this juncture, Sir, perhaps I may be permitted to express the very great satisfaction entertained in the West, and more particularly in British Columbia, over the fact that another Western man has succeeded to the portfolio of Agriculture, at one time held by Mr. Burrell; and we, Sir, consider it a matter for great congratulation that the interests of our two great basic industries in Yale, farming and fruit growing are now in the experienced and capable hands of Hon. Dr. Tolmie, and will be under such competent and I know, successful guidance.

It is for me a matter of personal inclination and a duty which I owe to a large section of my constituents to express in very sincere, but I fear very inadequate terms the sense—the deep sense—of appreciation that our people feel over the exaltation that the highest office in the gift of

[Mr. MacKelvie.]

Canada of the Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen, whose clear-cut and forceful exposition of his policy as regards fiscal and other issues, during his tour of the West, gave very complete satisfaction indeed to the great majority of the constituency which I represent. In passing let me say that that constituency of Yale is perhaps one of the largest in the Dominion and as big, I suppose, as any five eastern counties. Its basic industries, as I have already intimated, are those of agriculture and horticulture; and you can realize, Sir, what satisfaction and what relief it afforded the men engaged in those activities to hear during the Prime Minister's tour through the constituency such unequivocal and lucid expressions as he uttered regarding the tariff in particular.

After listening to the very able and very comprehensive review of the Speech from the Throne which the mover has presented I feel that there is but little of interest or value to this House that I may be able to add. It is, apparent, I suppose, to all of us that these are times of particular strain and stress. We are passing through a period of unparalleled uncertainty and unrest. Wherever, outside this favoured country of Canada, we turn our eyes our vision seems darkened and disturbed by scenes of distress, poverty, and agitation of all kinds. For years to come, perhaps, it will be a matter of great difficulty for this old world of ours to shake itself down to a position at all approaching stability. War and carnage still stalk through a large portion of Europe. Turbulent agitators taking advantage of the times, are strenuously, actively and continually engaged in an attempt to guide men's minds into channels of revolutionary intent. I am sorry to say also that an active, a well conducted, and energetically pursued propaganda of hate and suspicion is being promulgated in order to create strife between labour and capital. These are problems, I suppose, that will require the attention of thinking men for many years to come. I am, Sir, I think, to be classed among the ranks of what we might term reasonable optimists. At least, I have the most profound and abiding faith in the potential greatness and glorious future of this country of ours, and in its manifold and magnificent resources which as yet have not been touched, by way of development, only on the outer fringes. But, nevertheless, I can see that there is a kind of shallow and superficial optimism which seems to be in the habit of closing its eyes