

sincerity. We believe him to have been a patriotic and honourable public man, whose death has been a loss to the House.

Motion agreed to; and House adjourned at 3.25 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, 30th JANUARY, 1893.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 3 o'clock.

PRAYERS.

ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

The House proceeded to the consideration of His Excellency's Speech delivered at the opening of the session.

Mr. McINERNEY. I rise, Mr. Speaker, to move the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, and I may say that the novelty of the situation is somewhat embarrassing to me. That, I apprehend, is the orthodox, customary and proper thing to say on an occasion of this kind—orthodox, because I hold that you, Sir, and every other member of this House who has spoken under the same circumstances must have an unalterable belief in its truth; customary, because I know that, for over a quarter of a century, at least once a year, something very similar to this has been said here; and proper, because I deem it meet that a young member rising for the first time to address you, Sir, and this honourable body, representing as it is supposed to represent, the power and the intelligence of this broad Dominion, should wrap himself round with the mantle of modesty—

Let him not boast who puts his armour on,
Like him who takes it off, the battle done.

It is, therefore, Sir, with the greatest diffidence that I rise to endeavour to perform the task with which I have been overloaded. I would have shrunk from an attempt to perform it had it not been that I considered it would reflect some honour on the constituency which I represent—a constituency which on six different occasions I attempted to obtain the favour of and failed, succeeding only on the seventh attempt. I regret, Mr. Speaker, that I have not arrived here at an earlier day—not on my own account or because I have any particular personal ambition; but, Sir, I regret that I lose, to a limited extent perhaps, the intellectual association with that great man who more than any other shaped the destiny and the legislation of this country for a number of years; I name the late Right Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald. But, Mr. Speaker, his words still pulsate throughout this chamber, his memory is still rich through-

Sir JOHN THOMPSON.

out this country, and his works still speak loudly to the enemy in the gates. I regret also, and I think I may be permitted to express the regret, that I lose the association of that other great man, the ex-leader of the great Liberal party, Edward Blake. While we cannot say that he has gone to the same peaceful scenes, to which it may be hoped the spirit of his opponent has gone, we can say that he is carrying out a laudable ambition and a great design in taking back his high intellectual gifts to the solution of a great problem in the land of the Blakes and the O'Donnells. But, Sir, the regret which I have expressed is tempered with the reflection that the mantles of both of these great men have fallen upon worthy shoulders. It cannot be doubted that our friends—the enemy—have, in their present leader, a man of high character, chivalrous nature, and great eloquence, and that any position which they may take before the country will lose nothing from having it represented by him. As for the leader of the party to which I have the honour to belong, his great qualities require no comment and no praise from me. I may simply say to our friends, the Opposition, that, while in their last attempt to defeat the Government of Sir John Macdonald they imitated the example of Napoleon at Wagram and struck a tremendous blow at the centre, I hold that to defeat Sir John Thompson they will have to imitate Napoleon at Borodino and rout the whole line. Now, Sir, with these few preliminary remarks, I come to the matter of the Speech which was delivered from the Throne last Thursday. It tells us of the progress of the country; and, Sir, I think it is a gratifying fact that this chamber is able to answer that the country during the last year has certainly progressed. The progress of the country, it may be admitted, has not been marked by great leaps and bounds; but, Sir, it is a healthy progress. The quick-growing is the short-lived, Mr. Speaker; and the royal oak which from year to year lays its thin layers one upon the other is a thing of beauty and a joy for centuries. Now, Sir, is it true that the country has progressed? I claim that it is, and I claim that an examination of the trade returns of this country for the last year will show that it has progressed in a marked degree. I will refer, in the first place to the number of people employed in the manufacturing establishments of this country. In 1891 the number was 367,496, whereas in 1881, at the time of the previous census, we employed 112,561 less than that number. I think, Mr. Speaker, that that is a marked increase. In 1891 the railways of Canada carried the products of the country to the value of \$21,753,021, while ten years before they only carried \$12,065,323 worth. Coming to the exports and imports of the country, we find that in 1891 the exports amounted to \$113,963,375 and the imports to \$127,406,068; whereas ten years before the exports amounted to only \$102,137,203 and the imports to \$119,419,500. So that the total of the imports and exports for the last year was \$241,369,445,