

We rely upon it that not only will the representatives of that Ireland, which we all delight to honour, but all the people of Canada will receive at his hands that degree of justice which is bound to flow from any representative sent to Canada by Her Majesty, as on every occasion she selects the best man possible to preside over the destinies of this important and conspicuous portion of her domain. As for Lady Aberdeen, we know her well. She takes, also, a deep interest in our people, in our institutions, and in everything that appertains to the welfare of the country. I am sure that when, in the ordinary course of events, the time arrives for Their Excellencies to leave Canada, our people will heartily say, God-speed to the Governor General and his lady, who have so largely contributed towards the happiness, the comfort, and the prosperity of the Dominion. Mr. Speaker, I rise with no ordinary degree of pleasure to move the address in response to the Speech from the Throne. Although twenty years have elapsed since I before had the honour of occupying a seat in this Chamber, I still undertake this duty with a considerable degree of hesitancy, inasmuch as I am fully aware that within that time there have been extraordinary advances made in every line of thought, and particularly in the great department of political economy. As one of the representatives of the capital of the Dominion of Canada, I feel satisfied that the compliment that has been paid me is more to the people whom I have the honour to represent, than to myself, personally. Permit me to say, Sir, that, in making this response to the address, I wish to crave the indulgence of the hon. members of this House. Time is an important factor in estimating the development and progress of a country, and certainly the people of Canada have reason to feel proud of what has been accomplished within the past twenty years. If we look around us, in almost every direction we see tangible proof of that advancement. I would ask any sane man who looks into the various lines of thought and development, if he does not observe in this the full and thorough determination of the people of Canada (notwithstanding the difficulties they have had to contend against) to maintain the spirit of independence and reliance on themselves. It all convinces me that our people are rapidly attaining the point of the maintenance of the true spirit of national development. I know of nothing that has tended more to bring our people together than the grand principles of confederation. It has cemented the various provinces, it has developed interprovincial trade and commerce, and it has caused us to know their legislators, who have been brought up here from time to time, and who have taken so active and so energetic a part in the affairs of this House that—as the Hon. Sir Hibbert Tupper

pointed out in Hamilton a few days ago in his admirable address on "Canadian Footprints"—we look to the Maritime Provinces as a nursery of great men. These provinces have contributed to our public life a class of men who have always taken an active and energetic part in the advancement of this country. Before the principles of confederation were thoroughly carried out, the Maritime Provinces traded with Boston and New York, and the contiguous portions of the United States; but since confederation what do we find? That we in this part of Canada are taking their coal, that they are taking our flour, that in every way trade and commerce has sprung up between us, and that by our interchange of ideas we are daily becoming more closely allied to each other. The hon. members of this House need not be told what the Canadian Pacific Railway has accomplished in the progress of our great country. I might say, Sir, that I hold in my hand to-day the bill presented to me by the late Sir John Abbott when he was taking an active part on the floor of this House, who then expressed his wish to me that I should introduce the Canadian Pacific Railway Bill. He formulated the principles of it, and I had the pleasure of introducing it on the 20th day of April, 1872, and of addressing the House on the importance of that great highway. We are to-day realizing the importance of the construction of that railway in every sense of the term. We find that trade and commerce have developed to an extraordinary degree. In the present state of depression that railway has no doubt difficulties to contend against, as almost any railway on this side of the Atlantic has, but notwithstanding that, I am satisfied that it will be able to stem the current, to float on as for years past, and to assist very materially in the further development of the resources of Canada. I may say that I know perfectly well the sentiments expressed by individuals who have considered the subject, and they are that the shortest route across from the Atlantic to the Pacific would ultimately command the commercial supremacy of this North American continent. We find also that the Government are now inaugurating a system of rapid steam communication between Great Britain and Canada, a policy which will also assist very materially in advancing our position as a country. Twenty years ago, we had only one line of steamers—the Allans—and to them is due a great deal of credit for what they have done in the earlier stages of Canada. We know that if it had not been for the Allans the trade of Canada would be in a backward condition compared to what it is to-day. There are now five lines of steamers sailing from Montreal to European ports, and we will yet have another line in order to enable us to compete with the great Republic to the south of us. We have also those magnificent steamers, sailing from Vancouver to