

ADDRESS TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

MR. MACKENZIE: I rise at present to perform a duty which I feel, in a sense, to be one in which I may take great pleasure; in another sense, it is one which gives me some pain. I rise to propose an Address to His Excellency the Governor-General, expressive of the feelings of this House towards him on the occasion of his departure from this country, and I am sure that I completely represent the feelings of every member of this House, when I say we look upon that event, now near at hand, as one which will be regretted by every resident of Canada, as well as every member of this House. The position of Governor-General of a great colony like Canada, a country exalted above the ordinary condition of colonies, and embracing within its borders an entirely new system of Government—although that system of government is consistent with that of other great British colonies. Here we have many Provinces, forming part of the federation, though they exist in a semi-independent condition as regards the Dominion. Under such a system, the duties, labours, anxieties and responsibilities of the Chief Executive of the country are correspondingly increased, and we can easily understand the difficulties which must beset even the most experienced statesman coming from the Mother Country to assume the conduct of affairs, and act as the representative of Her Majesty in this country. We are, therefore, expected, on the arrival of a new Governor-General, to aid him by our sympathies in the discharge of the responsible duties which he is called upon to discharge. It may, however, be thought by some, that the office of a Governor-General or Lieutenant-Governor of any of the British colonies is one of comparatively small importance as regards the political life and general prosperity of that country. I do not believe that to be the case. I believe that the Governor of any country has a great deal to do, by judicious management of the affairs which are committed to his hands, in promoting or retarding the general prosperity of that particular colony. We have had in Canada a long experi-

ence of the public men of England who have been sent out here in that capacity. We have had some of the ablest men that could be furnished by the Empire sent to rule over us in the name of Her Majesty; but, I venture to say, that amongst all the celebrated men who have held that position in this country, none will be remembered with feelings of greater gratitude or kindness than the present Governor-General, Lord Dufferin. He has endeavoured, since his advent as Governor-General, not merely to discharge his high duties with impartiality, and in that manner which becomes the representative of Her Majesty, in a constitutionally-governed country, inhabited by a high-spirited, intelligent people; but he has endeavoured, by every means in his power, to make the name of Canada known all over the world, so far as his personal influence and efforts, aided by his political position, would enable him to do so. He has exerted himself to accomplish this end in a way that no other Governor-General has done. To be sure, no other Governor-General has had quite the same opportunities, because Canada, as an aggregation of smaller Provinces, has not been in existence many years. His Excellency has endeavoured to make himself intimately acquainted with the wants and resources of all portions of the vast Dominion over which he was called to rule; and, by his successive journeyings through the various Provinces of the British Empire on this continent, he has, perhaps, made himself better acquainted with the entire political system under which we live, and the people which inhabit the various Provinces, and their resources, than any Governor-General who ever lived in this country. It is a matter of congratulation to us to know that such effort has been made by one who holds so distinguished a position among his peers in the mother land; and, although we shall very soon have occasion to lament his departure from among us, we may yet calculate with absolute certainty that the intimate knowledge and warm appreciation of this country, which he has shown in all his public utterances, will lead him to give a hearty response to any

request made by this Dominion to him, and that he will do anything in his power which can advance the material interests of this country. I have often remarked the extraordinary influence which some of His Excellency's speeches have had in the Old Country. During his visits to several of the Provinces, speeches have been made by him which commanded the attention of all parts of England, Scotland and Ireland, as well as other countries, especially with reference to the various resources of this country. Those speeches were the opinion of a distinguished English statesman as to its capacity for maintaining a vast population proud of its relations to the Empire, and the certainty of future greatness; and I venture to say that no agency has been more potent in making Canada known to the world than these utterances of His Excellency, circulated as they have been through the Press of Europe. Whatever may be His Excellency's future, we can never fail to look upon these speeches of his, and his other efforts, otherwise than as efforts made for the advancement of Canadian interests, as efforts which we have no doubt—which we have abundant proof already—have conduced greatly to that end. It is, therefore, with the very greatest pleasure that I assume the task, as a member of the Government, of moving an Address expressive, in some degree, of the feelings which this House holds for His Excellency, of our approval of his course as Governor-General, and our hearty good wishes for his future career. I should but ill-fulfil the task which I feel to be a difficult one, were I to refrain from saying one word regarding our personal relations. It has been my fortune, as a member of the Government, to have, as a matter of course, the most intimate relations with His Excellency for a number of years and I can only say that, in this respect, as anyone else who has had the same relation must say, that they have been of the most gratifying kind, and it is always a matter of congratulation to find that the experience of our public men with those who have been sent from Britain for a time to act in the capacity of representative to Her Majesty, should be of such a character

MR. MACKENZIE.

as to leave no ill-feeling behind. It will be observed, Sir, that I have made a reference in this Address to His Excellency's distinguished consort, and I need only say, in regard to that distinguished lady, that she has amply and fully seconded His Excellency's efforts in all that could possibly be expected by the most exacting, in the position she has occupied. Every member of this House will always gratefully remember Her Excellency's efforts to minister to their enjoyment, and all good wishes will accompany her from Canadians through all her future life. I beg to move, seconded by Sir John A. Macdonald:—

“That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor-General, expressing the deep feeling of regret of this House at his approaching departure from Canada, and it is our duty to assure His Excellency that the zealous devotion of his great abilities on all occasions to the public interests is held in high appreciation; and that especially the visits to each of the Provinces and Territories of the Dominion, by which His Excellency has familiarized himself with the character of the people and the resources of the country; and the eloquent speeches in which His Excellency has enlarged on those topics have been attended with the most beneficial results in attracting attention to Canada; and that we are highly sensible of the great degree in which literature and art and the industrial pursuits have received encouragement from His Excellency's efforts and liberality; and assuring His Excellency and his distinguished consort that they will bear with them on leaving us our warmest wishes for their future welfare and happiness; that we rejoice in the conviction that, though Canada may no longer possess the advantage of His Excellency's experience and knowledge of public affairs in so exclusive a degree as she has enjoyed them in the past, she will continue to have in His Excellency a friend and advocate; and that it is our heartfelt wish that, for many years, the Empire at large may have the benefit of His Excellency's ripe wisdom, experience and eminent abilities.”

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: Mr. Speaker, like the hon. the First Minister, I rise with mingled feelings of regret and pleasure to second this resolution. Like him, like the people of Canada and like the members of this House, I feel the greatest regret at the approaching departure of the illustrious representative of our Sovereign in this country. But I rise with pleasure to express in my humble way my great appreciation of

his great qualities as the representative of our Sovereign during the six years he has fitly and fully represented the dignity, the responsibility, the power and the influence of the Crown. Like the hon. the First Minister, I would say that the office of Governor-General is not a mere formal office. It is one of great power. It is one of great dignity. It is one of the greatest responsibility, and the Governor-General is a person elevated, like the Sovereign, far above the shifting party politics of the day. He is at the helm of state. He guides, advises, warns and counsels, and he—while others, absorbed in party politics, may forget for the moment the interests of the country—has only one object before him, and that is the common interests of all. That is a duty thrown by the Sovereign upon her representative, and everyone must admit, and everyone cheerfully admits, that the duty has been fully and ably performed by the Earl of Dufferin. It is especially important on this continent, where Republican institutions prevail, that monarchy should show its beneficent side; and if every monarchy was rendered pleasant, if ever the principles of monarchy were vindicated, and the usefulness of monarchical institutions fully vindicated, they have been vindicated in the manner in which the representative of the monarch has performed his duties during the last six years. And so it is that feelings of regret prevail on both sides of this House, and among both political parties into which this country is divided, at the approaching departure of his Excellency; and that they unite, as I know they do cordially, sincerely and from the bottom of their hearts, in their tribute of respect and affection to the Earl of Dufferin. As the hon. the Prime Minister has said, the Address would not be perfect if it did not contain our sentiments towards His Excellency's consort. Under a Government like this, under monarchy, and in a country governed by monarchical institutions, the consort of the Sovereign, or the consort of the representative of the Sovereign, always holds, and must be held to assume a political character, and that illustrious lady, as the Prime

Minister has truly said, has fitly and well seconded the efforts of the Governor-General to maintain the dignity, the honour and the popularity of the position which they have held. While we regret, Sir, that so soon we are to be bereft of the presence of these two illustrious personages, we have the consolation to which my hon friend opposite alluded, that we have not lost their services for ever. Fortunately, the Governor-General is still a young man, is still in the prime of life. Although ripe in experience gathered from many lands, and through holding many positions, he is still a young man, and we may look forward to many years of his influence in a higher position,—high as his present position is,—in the counsels of the Mother Country. He has won, as we all know, and we have evidences of it from the honour that has been conferred upon him since he has been Governor-General, the confidence of the illustrious Lady he represents. Any one who reads the Press knows that he not only has the confidence of the fourth estate in England, but that of the Sovereign, and with the Sovereign and the Press both fully appreciating his great qualities, he will, I am satisfied, if Providence spares his life and health, for many years hold as high a position as, aye and a still higher position, than that he is about, to our infinite regret, to vacate. As this Address says, truly we, everyone of us, know that wherever he goes, whatever position he may be placed in he will always have a kindly remembrance of the Dominion of Canada. He knows quite well with what a feeling of affection the people of Canada regard him, and he would be less than man, or more than many if he did not return that feeling, but we know that he will do it. It is fortunate he is so young a man. If we look back, as I can, it will be seen that it is our mis-hap that of all the representatives of the Sovereign that have governed the old Provinces of Canada, there is only one still left, and he, from the position he at present holds, is deprived of the opportunity, whatever his desire to do so may be, of standing as the advocate of the future interests of Canada. But with a certain future, if God spares

him, and health before him, we know we shall have, in the great sphere of usefulness that is open for him, when he leaves this country, after such a successful reign, for reign it was, a powerful, firm and sincere advocate of the best interests of the Dominion, in the Earl of Dufferin. These sentiments, I believe, must impress themselves, and do impress themselves, upon the hearts and reasons of everyone. With these remarks, I have the greatest pleasure in seconding the resolutions of the hon. the Prime Minister.

MR. LAURIER said he rose with much pleasure to support the motion. Nowhere, he was sure, would its sentiments be re-echoed with more sincerity or a warmer appreciation of the merits of its distinguished object than in the Province of Quebec, of which he was an humble representative. The kindly disposition of His Excellency, his admirable qualities as a public man, his studious desire to soften the asperities of public life in Canada, and above all, the respect and affection he had shown for all the institutions of Quebec on account of its inhabitants, had endeared him to them all without distinction of party or creed. He had shown more sympathy with its people than Governors of the same French race. The same good qualities had been displayed by him—happily in more tranquil times—as Lord Elgin had manifested at a troubled period of Canadian history. The people of Lower Canada would, like all their fellow-countrymen, deeply regret His Excellency's departure, and never cease to follow him with the kindest wishes for future happiness and suitable opportunities of well-doing. Lady Dufferin always enjoyed the respect and affection of the people, and would always retain a place in their hearts.

MR. LANGEVIN: I am happy to have this opportunity of being able, and in company with the hon. the Minister of Inland Revenue, who has just taken his seat, in the name of the French-Canadians, who formed such an important part of the population of the Dominion of Canada, to express their sentiments of deep regret on the occasion of the departure of His Excel-

lency the Governor-General and his worthy consort. I concur fully, and I know that my countrymen in Lower Canada, the French-Canadians, equally with the people of other origins, will wholly concur in the sentiments that have been expressed by the hon. the First Minister, the leader of the Opposition, and the hon. gentleman who has just spoken on the subject of the regret we all feel to see His Excellency leave us. We have had, previous to the arrival of His Excellency, other Governors since 1841, and some of them have rendered themselves more popular than others with the Province of Quebec; their names will remain in the memory of the people of Lower Canada; that of Sir Charles Bagot especially is honoured and venerated by our population. The name, also, of Lord Elgin is still a name which is received with respect and applause by the public when mentioned in speeches here and elsewhere, and I am convinced that the name of Lord Dufferin will rest not less dear to the people of my Province in particular. His name is popular in Lower Canada, in the cottages and the villages, and in the most remote parts of the Province. This name of Lord Dufferin is so popular among the French Canadians that they have popularized it; he is by them called, not Lord Dufferin, but Lord Dufresne. They make of him a French Canadian, to such a great degree have they found him in sympathy with our race. Mr. Speaker, Lord Dufferin, since he has been at the head of the Government, has made himself acquainted with all parts of this country, even to its remotest and least populous Province; he has endeavoured to know and to identify himself with the population, and to make himself familiar with their necessities, and even with their prejudices. We have seen him on the shores of the Atlantic, and again on the shores of the Pacific. Later, we saw him in the midst of the Western plains, and why? Because he desired to acquaint himself with all our needs, and to visit the whole country; and I am convinced that when Lord Dufferin returns to his native country, if he is accorded some degree of leisure, he will not forget this country which

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD.

he has governed with so much wisdom; and perhaps we will have some work from his able and elegant pen, which will, no doubt, not be a work on the subject of "High Latitude," but will speak with authority on the subject of the latitudes in which we live. Mr. Speaker, if we judge by the past, this will be an excessively interesting and important production; and I am thoroughly convinced that if our gracious Sovereign does not before long call His Excellency to some position higher even than the one he now fills in the Empire, he will cause to appear this work which will certainly be one to which we will refer with great pleasure, and which will be a most interesting and most useful production. In thus speaking of His Excellency the Governor-General, we cannot forget the amiable Lady who is his worthy consort. Lady Dufferin has always shown a most excellent and gracious disposition in meeting the requirements of our works of charity, in patronizing the bazaars, the fêtes, the examinations, and all that is interesting in connection with our great institutions of charity or education, not only of Lower Canada, but also of other parts of the country. Hence, her name will remain associated with that of Lord Dufferin, and long after they have left this country, their names will be remembered and blessed. They are going to leave this country, but they do so with our best wishes; and we will not cease to pray for their good fortune and prosperity, and, I am convinced that, before long, after His Excellency has quitted our shores, we will see and hope that our Gracious Sovereign will not fail to utilize his services, his talents, his great experience and ability, in some other eminent position. Having thus expressed myself, Mr. Speaker, I beg to thank the House for the attention it has accorded me, and to say that I fully concur with the terms of the proposed Address:

MR. MACKENZIE moved:

"That the said Resolution be referred to a Select Committee, composed of Messrs. Mackenzie, Blake, Sir John A. Macdonald, Holton, Laflamme, Tupper, Smith (Westmoreland), Langevin, and Mason, to draft an Address to His Excellency thereon."

MR. MACKENZIE, from the said Committee, reported the draft of an Address, which is as follows:—

"To His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir FREDERIC TEMPLE, Earl of Dufferin, Viscount and Baron Clandeboye of Clandeboye, in the County Down, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom, Baron Dufferin and Clandeboye, of Balleleidy and Killeleagh, in the County Down, in the Peerage of Ireland, and a Baronet, Knight of the Most Illustrious Order of Saint Patrick, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, and Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Governor-General of Canada, and Vice-Admiral of the same, etc., etc., etc.

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

"We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Canada, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to approach Your Excellency with the expression of the deep feeling of regret which we experience at your approaching departure from Canada.

"We feel it to be a duty to assure Your Excellency that the zealous devotion of your great abilities on all occasions to the public interests is held in high appreciation; and that especially the visits to each of the Provinces and Territories of the Dominion, by which Your Excellency has familiarized yourself with the character of the people and the resources of the country, and the eloquent speeches in which Your Excellency has enlarged on those topics have been attended with the most beneficial results in attracting attention to Canada.

"We are highly sensible of the great degree in which literature and art and the industrial pursuits have received encouragement from Your Excellency's efforts and liberality.

"We venture to convey the assurance that Your Excellency and your distinguished Consort will bear with you on leaving us our warmest wishes for your future welfare and happiness; that we rejoice in the conviction that, though Canada may no longer possess the advantage of Your Excellency's experience and knowledge of public affairs in so exclusive a degree as she has enjoyed them in the past, this country will continue to have in Your Excellency a friend and advocate; and that it is our heartfelt wish that for many years the Empire at large may have the benefit of Your Excellency's ripe wisdom, experience and eminent abilities."

Address read the second time and agreed to, and ordered to be engrossed, and to be communicated to the Senate for their concurrence.