

ments to make it perfect, was, he asserted, the best in the world. Just before adjourning Mr. Whitney made an ineffectual attempt to obtain a statement from the Attorney-General respecting the date of the elections.

Mr. German's Speech.

Mr. German was warmly applauded by his fellow-Liberal members when he arose to move the address. He said:—

Mr. Speaker, I would have been better pleased if the burden of the duty which I am about to undertake had been cast on some one more capable of its satisfactory performance than myself; but, sir, there is at least one thing satisfactory, that so far as it might be incumbent on the mover of the address to speak in defence of the Government, the duty is not an onerous or difficult one. Notwithstanding the frantic efforts of hon. gentlemen of the Opposition in their peregrinations through the Province during the past year to stir up some enthusiasm on their behalf and some feeling of antipathy to or distrust in the Government, their exertions have signally and completely failed, and the people of the Province to-day have as full confidence in the honesty and ability of the Government to properly and economically administer its affairs as though Mr. Whitney had remained basking in the sunshine on the banks of the St. Lawrence and Mr. St. John had continued his investigation of the piggery on the Humber.

There is no doubt, sir, that all in this chamber will join in an expression of satisfaction in the appointment of the hon. gentleman who opened this session of the Legislature to the position of Lieut.-Governor of the Province, and I am sure he will possess, as he hopes to possess, the fullest confidence not only of all members of this Legislature but the confidence of the united public as well. It is, sir, without doubt a fitting termination to the long and useful public career of that hon. gentleman and a proud reward for his energy, ability and integrity that, having been nearly all his life in the stormy sea of politics, filling the highest positions in the gift of his party, having been for twenty years the leader of the dominant party in this Province and the head of the Government, he should now be appointed to the position of the Queen's representative in the Province which he ruled so long. In accepting that position there are none to say but that he will ably perform the high duties pertaining to the office and hold the balance between the two political parties with as true a hand and as emphatically as though a thought of political strife or conflict had never influenced his action. I am sure there is a universal hope that he may be long spared to aid by his experience, integrity and ability the building up and development of our noble country. But, sir, while we all join in congratulations to Sir Oliver Mowat, I am sure we all feel a deep sense of gratitude for and appreciation of the able services, careful management and genial nature of his predecessor, and join in the hope that Sir George Kirkpatrick may soon recover his old-time strength and still have many years in which to

lend the aid of his high ability to the services of his country.

We can, of course, all join in the expression of pleasure at the residence in our midst, if only for a season, of their Excellencies the Governor-General and Lady Aberdeen, and I trust and believe they will carry away the conviction that, however we may differ as to the means, our guiding star and the goal of ambition of the people's representatives in this Legislature are the welfare, the expansion and the prosperity of this noble Province.

Unity of the Empire.

There is no doubt, sir, that we also join in a feeling of satisfaction and joyfully accept congratulation at the manifest interest exhibited at this time in the mother country for Canada. There was a time, within my easy recollection, when many thought and feared that there was not that interest taken in Canada and Canadian affairs in the mother land as could be wished, and I am not sure, sir, in the light of passing events, that the causes for that apparent lack of interest are far to seek, when we find a great political party in this country inaugurating a fiscal policy diametrically opposed to long-standing and well-settled English sentiment, a policy which, in a measure at least, discriminated against the importation into this country of English manufactured goods; and when we find the leading newspaper of that party editorially stating that if English sentiment and British connection cannot stand the strain of such an adverse policy, so much the worse for British connection. When we find that same party, year after year, while prating about their super-loyalty, their deep feeling of devotion to the mother land, and loudly claiming that all who differed from them were traitors and annexationists, saying at the same time to that country, in effect: "We care not enough for your sympathy, your feeling of interest, your active assistance in our welfare, we are not sufficiently loyal to reduce by one iota the tariff wall we have raised against you, unless you choose to tax for our benefit the bread that the millions of the poor in your country eat," is it not, sir, a reasonable conclusion that these principles, actually carried out, mean at least some of the cause that led to that dearth of interest in the mother land for Canada? We find that so soon as another party obtains power, so soon as Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his party, carrying out in practice the principles they had embodied in resolutions while in Opposition, without prating about their loyalty and shouting it from the housetops, quietly exemplified by act of Parliament their feelings and their desire for closer trade relations with England, an immediately increased and active interest in that country for Canada. We find her Government immediately doing what all the lip-loyalty and loud pretensions of the Conservative party never could have accomplished—nothing less than the cancelling of two important treaties which were of large benefit to Great Britain, but the cancelling of which will bring very considerable and lasting benefit to Canada. It is this manifest interest, brought about by the loyal and judicious acts