

mover of the address (Mr. Preston), who, as a thoughtful member of the press, would be a valuable addition to the speaking power of the House. The seconder of the address (Mr. Holmes) likewise showed promise of being a useful member if he only had the courage to address the House oftener.

He was glad to know that the hon. leader of the Opposition had referred in patriotic terms to the war now raging in South Africa; to the attitude of the various colonies towards the mother country in respect to that war. After a further reference to the war he referred to the enthusiasm it had evoked in Canada. We rejoice, he said, that it is so. The Liberal party rejoices that it is so, and I am prepared to say, and I think my friend will agree with me, that the present relations so cordial to Canada and the empire owe a good deal to the attitude of the Liberal party towards the empire in the last few years. I say that the first substantial step ever taken towards bringing Canada into close relations to the empire was taken by the Liberal party, when a preferential tariff was given to British goods in the Canadian market. (Applause.) We owe a great deal to the empire, to the business men and capitalists who are promoting our railways; we owe a great deal to the literature which

flows from the old land to this; we owe a great deal to the highly moral sentiment, commercial and otherwise, which prevails through this country, and we would be recreant to that relation, and we would be unworthy of the Anglo-Saxon blood which flows in our veins, if we were not prepared to repay the empire a thousandfold her generosity, her kindness to us in our hours of adversity." (Applause.)

The Financial Commission.

In the first place, Mr. Whitney had objected to the financial commission. Why should he object to the financial commission? Mr. Ross said it had been quite apparent to him, even before he became Treasurer, that in regard to our financial position there was a gross misunderstanding between the two sides of the House. He did not believe the Opposition were anxious to misrepresent the finances. The Government had stated the financial position as fully as any financial concern would do. It was a question of yes and no, of assertion and denial, between the two sides of the House. There were differences of opinion in the country, too, and for that reason the Government wanted the country to understand the position of their financial affairs.

The Financial Commission.

Mr. Ross justified the appointment of the commission of financial experts and resented Mr. Whitney's references to Mr. Hoskin. Mr. Ross did not know what Mr. Hoskin's politics were, but he was brought up in a Tory school, and he might have been more susceptible to correct influences than hon. gentlemen opposite and disavowed Toryism. This would be a good thing for gentlemen to the left of the Speaker to do, and they would do it if Mr. Ross had the op-

portunity, as he expected, of giving them advice for the next ten or fifteen years. (Ministerial applause.) It would be, however, an unkind and ungenerous thing for Mr. Whitney to say that a Liberal charged by royal commission under the Great Seal of the Province would dishonor that commission.

Mr. Whitney—I did not say so, and you know it right well.

Mr. Ross—By implication the hon. gentleman said so. What did it mean when he said it was an indecent thing for Mr. John Hoskin to act on that commission? It meant that Mr. Hoskin, holding in his hand the royal commission under the Great Seal of the Province, did an indecent thing. (Ministerial applause.) Mr. Ross went on to say that he had been represented as stating that Mr. Hoskin was not an officer of the Government. What he did say was that Mr. Hoskin was not an officer in the ordinary sense of the term, neither was he. He was first appointed by the Judges of the Court of Chancery as Guardian of Infants, and the Judges also defined what salary he should receive, subject to the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. True, the Government could dismiss the Guardian of Infants, but only for cause, and Mr. Whitney knew very well that the Government were not adopting the spoils system. Mr. Hoskin had held the office of Guardian of Infants for 30 years, and nearly a million dollars of trust moneys had passed through his hands. Again, he was at the head of a financial concern having investments amounting to \$20,000,000. Thus his high financial standing and probity were clearly apparent. Mr. Walker, another member of the commission, was Manager of the Bank of Commerce, and almost facile princeps the foremost banker of the Dominion. He was, besides, a cultured man and possessed of wide experience. Mr. Walker could not prejudice his position even if he would stoop to do it, which he would not. Mr. Kirkland, the third member of the commission, was, Mr. Ross thought, a Conservative, and if the Opposition thought that for the honor of being a commissioner he would wink at any irregularity it was for them to draw the inference. In order to expedite business and get their report ready the commission had employed an expert accountant in the person of Mr. Cross of the firm of Clarkson & Cross. His duty was to examine the books of the Province from Confederation down to the 31st of October last. A short time ago Mr. Ross was told that Mr. Cross was a Conservative. "Fancy," said the Premier, "a Conservative like Mr. Cross going through the Treasury Department since about the 1st of November last, looking at our bank books, checks and ledgers, and so on, for the last 30 years! A most pronounced Conservative within the vault, looking upon our surplus with his own eyes! (Ministerial applause.)

Mr. Matheson—Did he find the surplus?

Mr. Ross—You will see to-morrow when the report is laid before you. I have not read it yet.

Mr. Whitney (ironically)—A larger surplus than ever.

Mr. Ross—Mr. Cross will find exactly