

me, which, however, I look upon rather as an honour conferred upon the city itself. In common with all the loyal subjects of the empire, I recognize the great loss we have suffered in the death of His Majesty, our beloved King Edward VII., to which reference is made in the speech from the Throne. We have all seen how nobly and brilliantly his late Majesty undertook and carried the burden of empire, and the true greatness of his character and his zeal and ability will ever be fresh in the minds and hearts of the Canadian people. Staunch devotion to duty was his strong and unfailing characteristic. No trouble did he deem too great so long as it served to advance the prosperity of the empire and the happiness of all his people, and he passed away beloved, not alone by his own subjects throughout the empire, but by the people of the whole civilized world. It is very consoling for us, however, in common with all loyal subjects of the Imperial Crown, to recognize and appreciate the magnanimous attitude of our new sovereign towards his people and his anxiety to promote and advance the will of the people, thus showing, in the highest sense, his devotion to constitutional rule.

The speech from the Throne mentions several most important questions which must come before this House during the coming session, but before dealing briefly with these matters, may I be allowed to refer to the great privilege this country has enjoyed during the past year. This privilege I do not think I can bring more clearly and effectively before the House than by offering a few figures as evidence of our unprecedented prosperity. And, first, touching the trade of Canada with the world: For the fiscal year just closed, our total imports of merchandise, dutiable and free, amounted to \$385,835,103, as compared with \$299,768,166 for the previous year, an advance of \$86,066,937, clearly showing that our population, our industrial demands within our own borders and our commercial activity were increasing at an enormous rate. But, even though we required increasingly large amounts of produce to satisfy our home demands, I find that, comparing this year with last, our total exports of merchandise have been nearly \$39,000,000 greater than the year before. And, summing up the general situation, I find that, whereas the total trade of Canada, inwards and outwards, including coin and bullion, up to the end of the fiscal year 1909, amounted to \$571,000,000, it amounted during the past fiscal year to \$693,000,000, an increase of \$122,000,000. For the twelve months ending September last, the total trade of Canada was \$130,000,000 over what it was in the previous year. And I have no hesitation in saying that, at the end of the present fiscal year, namely, on the 31st March, 1911, our total trade will be

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considerably over \$800,000,000, as compared with \$693,000,000 during the past fiscal year, and as compared with \$218,000,000 fifteen years ago.

Again, one of the truest indications of our prosperity is to be found in the Customs returns. The Customs duties collected during the year ending September, 1909, amounted to \$53,868,671. During the past fiscal year there has been the unprecedented advance of 26 per cent on that sum, the figures up to the end of September last being \$67,783,680. Upon inquiry, I learn that there is no particular line of trade that is specially responsible for this enormous increase, but reports from every section of the country show that it is only the ordinary general growth of the nation's trade, commerce and industry which is responsible for this wonderful showing.

Let me give you another comparison, this time from the immigration returns. Take the figures for the months of April, May, June and July, 1910, and compare them with the same months of 1909. The number of immigrants arriving for these four months of the present year was 155,549, as compared with 90,249 for the corresponding four months of 1909. The immigration from the United States in this time increased from 40,267 to 54,699, while the immigration by ocean ports increased from 49,982 to 100,850, an increase of 102 per cent. For the month of July alone, the total immigration to Canada was 26,218, as compared with 16,113 for July, 1909, an increase of 57 per cent. These figures are astonishing in many respects, and the government is to be congratulated on the past year's showing, which is, however, a continuation of the general prosperity which arises to a great extent from the sound and businesslike administration of the government. But there is another reason for congratulation, and that is that the government is far-seeing in securing the very best means of preserving the stability and insuring the future of our great country. This is being shown in many ways all through the different departments; but I would like to particularly mention the Commission of Conservation, which was organized last January. This Commission, which has the honour of having as chairman the Hon. ex-minister of Interior, the member for Brandon (Hon. C. Sifton), will study, investigate and advise on the minerals, the fisheries, the public health, the inland waters, the lands and the forests, so as to conserve for the best interests of the country what must now and in the future be the sources from which arise the happiness, prosperity and wealth of our people. But I should be remiss in my duty were I to overlook the great farming population and to fail to make at least a passing mention of the Department of Agriculture, which has now for so many years been so