

dentally to the world in 1896 was due entirely to the advent of this government. My hon. friend the member for West York (Mr. Campbell) has indeed persuaded himself of that, just as George IV. persuaded himself that he commanded at the battle of Waterloo, and my hon. friend the Postmaster General cheered the hon. member for West York when he put forward that idea very forcibly this afternoon. Now, what I suggest to my hon. friend the Postmaster General is that he should carry out the logical converse of that. We know that the hon. member for Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) has told us—he certainly stated in his address to the electors in 1900—that this prosperity is not due altogether to the advent of this government, but is mainly due to matters beyond the control of this government, and indeed is one of the blessings of Providence. Now, if we attribute the prosperity of the country to the advent of this government to power, why would it not do for my hon. friend the Postmaster General, while claiming credit to the government for all the prosperity of the country, to attribute these appointments solely to Providence and in that way, as it were, to balance matters. It seems to me that affords a fair working theory for my hon. friend, and, with a little modification and elaboration, it might be found very useful. Hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House who are supposed to be aspirants for positions in the Senate or on the bench, are sometimes a little restive when reference is made to such matters in the House; but certainly no hon. gentleman on the other side could object to the remark that the eye of Providence was upon him.

I regret very much, Mr. Speaker, that there is no reference in the Speech from the Throne to the fast Atlantic steamship service which was announced as an accomplished fact by the government of this country, some four years ago. I regret that very much, because the importance of that service is universally conceded. Englishmen visiting this country who see enormous amounts of American capital being expended in the country, and who are asked why English capital is not flowing into this country to assist in its development to the same extent, tell us that one of the first things required for closer connection in that way between this country and the mother country is the establishment of better steam communication between the two countries. We know the record of the present government with regard to that subject. Although they told us that they had a certain contract, a sure contract, in 1898, we know that nothing has been accomplished from that time to this—that we have heard nothing but excuses; and when they tell us that they propose to establish a steamship line between Canada and South Africa, I am tempted to inquire whether they expect to make the same degree of progress with regard to that

project as they have with regard to the fast Atlantic service. I am convinced that if they do not establish a very much better record with regard to that than they have with regard to the fast Atlantic service, the markets of South Africa will be in the position described by my hon. friend from West York this afternoon, and the trade of that country will be so diverted into other channels that by the time the proposed service will be established it will be almost impossible to secure it.

There is another subject upon which we have no information whatever in the Speech from the Throne, and that is the position in which this country stands at present with regard to its trade with Germany—I mean with regard to the German tariff as applied to Canada and as applied to Great Britain and the United States. Last year, when this matter was brought to the attention of the House, I was sorry to observe that my hon. friend the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) seemed almost inclined to justify the action of Germany in excluding Canada from privileges she was granting to the mother country and to the United States. I was sorry to see him take this position because the preference which we gave the mother country some years ago should not have resulted in an agreement by the mother country with Germany to establish a temporary treaty, from the benefits of which Canada was to be excluded. That should not be the result for another reason also, namely, because that very preference granted to Great Britain has practically resulted in a preference to Germany. We know that German goods, goods on which a considerable amount of German work and money has been expended, are sent to England in order to have certain work there done on them and are then shipped to Canada to be admitted as British goods under the preferential tariff. Germany is therefore—so I am informed by men more conversant in these matters than I—receiving no small benefit in that way from the preference we have given to British goods, while on the other hand we are subjected to the imposition of a higher German tariff than Great Britain herself has to face. That this should operate disastrously on the trade of Canada no one can doubt. I have had occasion to look into the figures, and I find that the exports of Canada to Germany are some \$600,000 less than they were in 1899, while the exports of the United States and Great Britain—particularly the United States—have very largely increased. And mark you, Mr. Speaker, our exports to Germany have decreased in a period during which our exports to all other foreign countries have very largely increased. This discrimination is felt by all exporters throughout Canada, and I regret that the government has not seen fit to give the slightest information in the Speech from the Throne