

or the Pacific side. After that boundary line is finally determined we shall be sovereign over all territory north of the international boundary between us and the neighbouring republic, except such parts as have already been awarded as the property of other nations. And is it too much to hope that in the near future an amicable adjustment of what has for many years been a difficulty on our eastern coast, the shore difficulty of Newfoundland, may be reached? True it is that we are not directly interested, but the adjacent colony of Newfoundland is vitally interested, and the excellent relations now existing between Great Britain and old France may lead to an amicable adjustment of that long-standing difficulty and so pave the way for the entry of that ancient and rugged colony of Newfoundland into this confederation, its natural home. Thus, too, will be consolidated all the British possessions in this part of the globe, bound together by a common allegiance and determined to maintain both their own integrity and, as far as in them lies, the integrity of the mighty empire to which we are so proud to belong.

Looking at His Excellency's speech I note, and I come naturally now to the subject—the introduction this session of a Militia Bill. I am not advised what the particular provisions of this Bill may be; suffice it to say that it is said to be for the betterment and the enlargement of the efficiency of the force. I am not one of those who believe that a standing army is the greatest blessing that a nation can have. We all know, and it is a truism, that modern Europe is suffering to-day from the cancer of militarism run mad. For that reason thousands of Europeans are daily leaving the shores of their native lands and seeking, in our western world, homes where they may labour and enjoy the just rewards of their daily toil without the clank of arms ever sounding in their ears. But, there is a sane middle course to be followed and that middle course I trust Canada and the advisers of the government in military matters will take. Canada must be prepared to defend herself at least by land should occasion arise. For that purpose we should not stint our provision for the maintenance of our citizen soldiers.

Mr. Speaker, an occasion such as this is a proper time, I presume, to take a general survey of the condition of the country, both as to its trade, its resources and its prospects. When some months ago the trade returns of the past fiscal year were made public and it was found that Canada's foreign trade to June 30, 1903, had reached the unprecedented total of \$467,000,000 many persons thought that high-water mark had then been reached. For some years prior to 1897 the trade of Canada had been stationary or showing only slight advances. Each year of the seven last past, the trade returns have recorded a phenomenal growth, but predic-

tions were freely indulged in that the growing time was about spent. Many prophecies were indulged in, dark prophecies of impending commercial disaster were made and we were warned to prepare for adversity. We were told that in the American republic these ominous signs were apparent. Have these predictions been verified by the facts? Have these predictions in the slightest degree been borne out by what has transpired since they were made? They have not, but on the contrary, the facts have disposed entirely of these dark prophecies of evil. Let me refer just for one moment, and I shall not weary the House, to the statistics for the current year, the fiscal year which we are now in. I find that already for the first half of this current fiscal year our trade has been as great, and that, Sir, despite these dark prophecies, it has been \$12,000,000 greater than that of the corresponding period of the last fiscal year. I refer, of course, to our aggregate foreign trade and if the present ratio of growth be maintained—and there is no reason in the world why it should not be—I do not think that I am going too far in saying that at the end of this current fiscal year we shall likely see the aggregate foreign trade of Canada touching the half billion mark. Now, take the question of our revenues. Have they sagged or diminished? Do they give any indication that we are going behind as was darkly hinted some few months ago? By no means. For the first eight months of the present fiscal year the revenues of Canada exceeded by \$3,200,000 those of the same months of last year, thereby proving conclusively that those prophets, who told us that unless we mended our fiscal ways disaster must soon overtake us, did not know what they were talking about. I have heard it said, and I believe with correctness, that we are to have a surplus this year vaster than has been.

This is a good time to take stock nationally. Let us look for a moment and see how our trade has grown during the last six or seven years. I find that our total aggregate foreign trade during 1903 was \$43,000,000 ahead of the trade of 1902, and I find that it has increased over the trade of 1895 by \$244,000,000, or 108 per cent. I am not saying anything new when I point out that our proportionate increase in trade has exceeded that of any of our commercial competitors. Our neighbours in the United States, for instance, in the same period of time that I have mentioned, have increased their total trade by only 47 per cent, while Great Britain, during the same seven years, has increased her total trade by 26 per cent. Nor is this phenomenal prosperity and growth confined to any one branch of industry. I single out particularly the great basic industry of agriculture and I say advisedly, believing it to be true, that never before have the farmers of Canada been so prosperous as they are at the present time. During the fiscal