

ation has changed so quickly and so thoroughly in a few days.

Now, as far as the paragraph relating to exhibitions is concerned, I entirely concur with the opinion put into the mouth of His Excellency. I had the advantage this last summer of visiting the Glasgow exhibition; and it is a pleasure for me to say here in compliment to the hon. Minister of Agriculture and to his officials that the display of Canadian products at the exhibition was made not only in the most artistic way, but in the most practical way. The effect was heightened by the visit of the hon. minister who took every occasion to address the English and Scotch public. Our exhibition at Glasgow coupled with the visit of the hon. Minister of Agriculture has done Canada a great deal of good.

So far as exhibitions at large are concerned, I simply wish to make one suggestion in all friendship to the government. In every exhibition where we take a hand it should be made an absolute condition, either with the directors of these exhibitions, or with representatives of the British government when the British empire at large takes part in it, that Canadian products should not only be exhibited separately but the lists of competitors and the prizes should be given separately. We have been told very often that we have grown to be a nation. Twenty-five years ago I suppose we were not a nation; but nevertheless, at the Centennial exhibition at Philadelphia, our representatives imposed upon the British officials the obligation of having special lists prepared of the Canadian exhibits and of having special lists of the prizes given. So that when the prizes were awarded, foreign purchasers could know, when looking at the list of winners, that one who had been awarded a bronze silver or gold medal, was a Canadian producer. At the Paris Exposition, twenty-four years later on, the names of Canadian prize winners on the lists were mixed up with the British, Australian and New Zealand competitors; so that when they came to be looked over, the foreign purchaser looking through a list of fifty names, for instance, would not probably see the name of a Canadian producer, but would be more likely to call upon the merchant or manufacturer of the big cities of England than upon the merchant or manufacturer of Canadian cities.

If foreign exhibits are going to be made by Canada, it is upon one very straight condition that we should exhibit, and this condition is that we should exhibit as Canadians, that the prizes should be awarded to us as Canadians, it should be known that a certain number of Canadians have won prizes and their names should not be mixed up with those of other exhibitors coming from all parts of the empire.

Now, coming to the question of trade

Mr. BOURASSA.

agents, I may say that I concur entirely in the projected policy of the government. I think it is a very good move and a move that should be extended; but I may be allowed to add that this move will bring its full and proper fruit only when Canada secures the right of herself making her foreign commercial relations. Should we have agents at Paris, Bordeaux, Berlin, Hamburg or any other foreign city, foreigners will come to them to inquire about the laws of the country and the conditions upon which trade can be done with Canada. If we are bound to say that we cannot negotiate any arrangement whatever with a foreign country with which improved trade relations are sought we hamper our trade relations. I hope this will be one of the questions which the right hon. leader of the government and his colleagues will put before the Imperial conference this summer. It is perfectly useless for us to boast of being a nation, it is perfectly useless for us to seek to develop our trade if by becoming a nation we cannot exercise one of the most essential prerogatives of a nation, which is the full and complete control of its foreign relations and of trade matters especially.

This brings me to the two paragraphs relating to the coronation of His Majesty the King and to the Imperial conference which is going to take place next summer. I am not going to speak at length on this because I have also put on the Order paper a motion asking for the production of the correspondence and papers which have passed between the Canadian and the Imperial governments on that matter. I simply wish to draw attention to the fact that in these two paragraphs the question of trade only is mentioned. Of course, I have not seen that which I hope the government will give us the advantage of seeing before the session is over: the terms of the invitation sent by Mr. Chamberlain to the colonial governments and the terms of the acceptance of that invitation. But there are past facts which should be made the lesson of the future.

In 1897, without this country knowing it, although parliament was in session, an invitation was sent to Canada as well as to all the other colonies asking that representatives be sent to England, not merely to establish trade relations between the various parts of the British Empire, but also to take steps that would have the effect of blending the various parts of the empire together, both socially and politically, and further to consider the organization of the military defence of the empire. My intention is not to bring forward any controversial subject to-day, and therefore I shall not dwell upon that matter at any length. I do say, however, that unless Mr. Chamberlain's mind has changed much during the last four years—and I do not think that his reputation would lead to the conclusion that it has—