

fact that he comes from the province of New Brunswick and was born in the county of Albert, which is adjacent to my own county. I am confident that in time, if it is his ultimate destiny to become Prime Minister of this great Dominion, he will uphold the best traditions of our New Brunswick statesmen who have sat in the councils of the nation, and will bring to that exalted position those high ideals of the true Canadian statesman which he possesses in full measure.

It is also my pleasure to congratulate the mover (Mr. Ilsley) and the seconder (Mr. Beaubien) of the address in reply to the speech from the throne for the very masterly manner in which they performed their part. I can assure them that they have won not only the admiration of their constituents but also the respect of this house and of the entire country.

Unquestionably the outstanding event of every session of parliament is the presentation of the budget by the Minister of Finance. Although I was not a member of this house until 1926, nevertheless I have followed the trend of events very closely, and I am sure that the great majority of the hon. members of this house will agree with me when I say that at every successive budget presentation the people of Canada as well as the unbiased press of our country have been loud in their praise of the administration of the public affairs of Canada by the present government and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Robb) whose reputation as an honest, sound and economic administrator of the finances of Canada ranks high in the minds of the people. I believe that our expectations of sound economic progress throughout Canada have been again demonstrated by the minister in his presentation of the budget this year.

It is not my purpose, Mr. Speaker, to review what has taken place in Canada since the 14th of September, 1926, for many of the speakers on this side of the house dealt very ably with the conditions at that time when the speech from the throne was discussed. But, Sir, I must say that on that date the electorate of Canada responded nobly to the appeal to elect a stable government, a government with a truly national policy and one only for every section of Canada. Embodied in that policy are the three essentials of a moderate tariff policy, a policy of adequate protection for the manufacturers of Canada, and one of wider markets for every section and class of industry throughout our country. Do we need, Sir, any greater proof of the wisdom of this policy than the changed conditions brought about since 1921? Year after year

[Mr. Bourgeois.]

we are witnessing a gradual reduction of our national debt. Year after year we are also witnessing a large favourable trade balance, and we are pleased to note this year an excess of exports over imports amounting to the large sum of \$147,100,904, due, Mr. Speaker, not only to the wise policy of the government, but also to the indefatigable energies and cooperation of the agricultural and industrial population in every province of Canada. But special mention should be made of the agricultural population of the western provinces in contributing in such a large measure towards this favourable trade balance, and I desire to say, Sir, that the pioneers and their families who went west from the provinces of Ontario and Quebec and from the provinces down by the sea, and the folks who emigrated from the British Isles and other lands to western Canada, deserve the greatest commendation for their courage and perseverance in carving out of the Northwest territories the beautiful provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. They have accomplished the great achievement of making of western Canada the greatest wheat producing country in the world, and have thereby also contributed to a great extent to the success of the two great railway systems of Canada.

But one must not forget that Ontario, the banner province of Canada, has been a great factor in increasing our favourable trade balance, due to the highly industrialized conditions in that province and its intensive agricultural production. Another contributing factor has been the province of Quebec with its immense resources of forest wealth of wood pulp products and its sane economic hydro development policy, which have had the effect of attracting an enormous amount of foreign capital to that province.

It is true, Mr. Speaker, that in New Brunswick our progress has not been as marked along agricultural and industrial lines as that of the central and western provinces. That is due to some extent to our geographical situation and to our remoteness from the markets of the central provinces; also to the almost prohibitive tariff which prevents us from placing our surplus agricultural products in the markets of the United States, particularly potatoes, of which we have a large surplus every year and on which there is a duty of 50 cents per 100 pounds. Not only does that tariff adversely affect our agricultural population, but it also prejudicially affects our fishing industry to the extent of two cents per pound on mackerel, two cents on halibut and one cent on cod. It is therefore of the utmost importance to the maritime provinces that the government should undertake negotiations at