

many speeches, of a like character. We always, on occasions of this kind, look forward to good speeches, carefully prepared and well delivered, and if I may be permitted, let me assure the hon. gentlemen who have performed the duty of moving and seconding the address this afternoon, that their speeches rank well and equal to the best of those which have graced the traditions of the past. I have always been proud of being a native of that little province where the mayflower blooms beneath the snow down by the roaring Atlantic, and I have further reason for being prouder to-day that we claim as a Nova Scotian the hon. gentleman who moved the Address. While I must confess I am not sure of the homeland of the hon. gentleman who seconded the Address, his attainments and his name would justify the presumption that he is a Nova Scotian, and until there is evidence to the contrary, I shall ask the House to believe that he is.

I am sure that we are very much pleased and edified by the very learned manner in which the hon. gentleman dealt with the various subjects implied in the speech from the Throne and also in the duty for which we are called here to-day. But it is not my purpose, nor will the occasion on which I arise in the arrangement which appears to be understood, between both sides of this House permit me to say very much at present on the Address or on the speeches which have just been delivered. I have nothing in any way controversial to say in regard to those speeches. The hon. gentleman who moved the Address spoke eloquently, and I am sure feelingly and conscientiously about the great blessing of unity not only between separate nations but within individual nations themselves. If he has ever felt any lack of unity or has ever seen any signs or evidences of lack of unity in this country, I am sure his great ability as a Canadian, as a member of this House and as a gentleman will come to his aid in trying to stamp out any spirit of that kind which he may meet with in this House, and I will advise my good friend to begin with that very excellent work at Jerusalem.

Let me hasten to associate hon. gentlemen on this side of the House and the Liberal party generally with the kindly reference made in the speech from the Throne to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. The Canadian people, and indeed the British people at large have a right to expect and do expect great and splendid things from the Prince of Wales who will in due course and we hope in the dispensation

of Providence, one day be the Sovereign of this great country. Without wishing to approach anything like exaggeration I may say that our highest expectations have been more than realized in the person of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. We pride ourselves upon being a democratic country; we pride ourselves upon having our very life, politically and otherwise, based upon the sound principles of democracy, freedom, justice and right, and we have every reason to hope and believe, aye, Sir, we are sure, that we have in the person of the Prince of Wales a gentleman who understands those principles and who, during his future career will do much towards supporting those ideas and placing them on a surer and wider foundation than they ever have been in the past. When the day comes in due course and in the dispensation of Providence that he shall become King and Emperor of this great country, he will, I am sure, from his education, his training, and his contact with the people of Canada, be fully equipped for carrying forward the great heritage handed down to him by those who have preceded him on the glorious throne of Great Britain. We all wish His Royal Highness the greatest possible happiness in his trip through Canada, a safe return to the motherland, and all happiness and prosperity during his career as Prince of Wales and as our future King.

The Treaty to which reference has been made by the hon. gentlemen who moved and seconded the Address will no doubt occupy the centre of the stage during this session and will in due course receive the careful consideration of the members of the Government as well as of hon. members on both sides of the House. From the observations made by the hon. gentlemen who moved and seconded the Address, particularly by the mover, it appears, and we believe there are in that treaty terms which may possibly change the conditions and status which have hitherto existed between this great country of ours and the motherland. If any action of this House is to have for its purpose or effect the changing of our relations with the mother country, the changing of the constitutional status of Canada, we shall have, indeed, to be very careful as to how we deal with such questions. This is a democratic country; this is a country in which we profess to act along the lines suggested by the free will of the people as expressed at the polls. This matter of changed relations between Canada and the mother country has never been submitted to the Canadian people and if this Treaty