

than was accomplished by the former one; because all that was accomplished by the former deposit and by the guarantee was that three or four years afterwards the guarantee was given up, and some five years afterwards we were called upon to vote an appropriation to return that deposit with interest. My right hon. friend on that occasion went further. He said:

It is with joy indeed that I welcome this explosion of satisfaction at the announcement that this scheme has not failed, but that it is to be carried through. I know that in some quarters this idea of having this passenger traffic amongst us was not popular; but, Sir, let me say to you that if there is a patriotic idea in the land it is the idea that we should not only carry the freight, but carry the passengers between America and Europe. We can do it, we ought to do it, and now it is no longer in doubt.

I may mention for the benefit of my right hon. friend that that speech was made by him on the 7th day of October, 1897, just six years and a half ago. The language of my right hon. friend on that occasion was eloquent. It almost reminded one of some of the eloquent phrases in which he introduced the transcontinental railway measure last year. In fact, I do not know that at any time in his speech of last year he soared to greater heights than he did when he told the country that the fast Atlantic service was no longer a matter of doubt. Well, what have the government accomplished since? Has any step been taken? A good deal of water has run under the bridges since that time; the Boer war has been begun and ended; but nothing has been done for the fast Atlantic service. What do the government propose to do? Have they anything to say to the House with regard to this measure which is important not only to the maritime provinces, but to every province and every individual in Canada?

My hon. friend from North Ontario (Mr. Grant) referred also, and I trust in no fault-finding spirit, to the fact that the government had made no mention in the speech from the Throne of any step being taken towards rounding off this Confederation by including in it the Island of Newfoundland. I commend my hon. friend from North Ontario for the independence he has shown in calling attention to this omission in the speech from the Throne. It is worthy of the high opinion I have always had of that hon. gentleman, that he should have called the attention of the House to the omission of this all-important matter. Newfoundland has been called the 'sentinel of the St. Lawrence.' I should like to see it called the 'sentinel of Canada' in the St. Lawrence, and to see this confederation rounded off by bringing that island in as a part of this great Dominion of which we are all so proud. In the debate on the speech from the Throne last year, I did suggest to the government that it would be a step worthy

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax).

of our country if Canada would take the initiative and approach the imperial government for the purpose of having settled once for all that troublesome question of the rights of the subjects of France on the shores of Newfoundland, and then submit such terms as would be acceptable to the people of Newfoundland and induce them to enter this Dominion. Indeed some time ago it was announced in the public press that the government were taking some steps in that direction, but there is no reference to anything of the kind in the speech from the Throne. I trust that the government have not been idle, and that my right hon. friend will be able to give us some information on this all-important subject.

I have already referred to the position of the Joint High Commission. It was stated by the hon. member for Norfolk last year in the debate on the address that the Joint High Commission would probably meet again in the near future, that statement was not contradicted by any member of the government, and I would like once more to ask my right hon. friend in what position that commission now stands. Is it still constituted and can it still be called together? If so, is it the intention of the government to take any further steps to have that commission meet again? My right hon. friend's memory cannot be so short that he does not recall the days gone by when he taunted the Conservative administration with not being able to come to a conclusion with the government of the United States about certain matters of interest to both countries. Surely he does not forget that, if the current report were true, a man went from the then opposition ranks on one occasion to Washington for the purpose of informing the government of the United States that better terms could be made with Canada after my right hon. friend came into office. I do not know whether that rumour was true or not, but I do know that these hon. gentlemen boasted of what they would accomplish if they only came into power and presented their sunny ways to the people of the United States. True, my right hon. friend has changed his opinion, as he frankly acknowledged to this House on more than one occasion, and he now finds that the people of the United States are disposed to have in view solely their own interests, and that any advantage which the people of Canada might be able to offer to them, would be of infinitely more value in bringing about a bargain than all the sunny ways that even my right hon. friend is able to place at the disposal of the government of that country. My right hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) still clings to his old delusions, because only a few weeks ago he declared in Toronto that one reason why we might take up this great question of mutual preferential trade within the empire was that it eventually might bring