

just, wise, necessary and eminently patriotic. It must be remembered that, in connection with the naval service, history, as in many other instances, but repeats itself. All will recall that the land military service has been for a great many years, the object of serious opposition and pronounced antipathy from a certain number of people. However, to-day, nobody, not even those who are violently opposed to the naval service, entertains any opposition to the land military service. It will be sufficient to state the question clearly, frankly, to have light thrown upon the matter, and I am convinced that this will happen ere long. The naval service will be accepted, just as the land military service has been.

I have but a few minutes left to say a word on some of the other subjects mentioned in the address. A reciprocity treaty with the United States, if one can be concluded to the advantage of Canada, would be but the necessary complement of the ministerial programme. The present government has concluded a treaty of commerce with France which will certainly procure considerable advantages. It has also concluded, with Belgium, Italy and Holland, commercial agreements, which will no doubt contribute to the increase of our trade and to the prosperity of the country. The objections advanced in certain localities against negotiation of a reciprocity treaty with the United States, rather appear to be inspired by a feeling of wounded self-pride on the part of those who believed there was cause for humiliation for us in the fact that the government of the Republic had, up to the last few years, rejected our offers of negotiation. It would to my mind be a serious mistake to refuse to negotiate with our neighbours for the purpose of increasing our commercial relations with them. There exists to-day, in the United States, a pronounced feeling in favour of reciprocity; there is a desire for a reduction of the American tariff, and there is an evident wish for an extension of commercial relations with us. It must not be forgotten that, on this occasion, our neighbours took the initiative, and that it was they who first applied to us. It would be, to my mind, contrary to our national interests to refuse to enter into the pro-

posed negotiations. We may feel assured that our government will not propose, and if it did, we shall always have liberty to reject, a fiscal agreement against the interests of the country.

For a great many years, the citizens of the western provinces, have been demanding the construction of the Hudson's Bay railway. I am not competent, nor have I the experience necessary to express an opinion on the real value and probable success which may be expected from this new transportation route. What we know is that, if the western provinces believe that this railway is necessary for their commerce and prosperity, if they insist on its construction, they should defray the cost of it themselves; for, as everybody knows, the railway is to be built by means of the sale of lands reserved for that purpose by the Dominion government, and these lands are all situated in the west. After consulting the latest report of the Department of the Interior, I notice that the product of the sale, up to date, amounts to nearly 22 millions, and if we add to this sum the interest accrued on the product of these sales, all belonging to the western provinces, it will be seen that the total sum required for the construction is already at hand, the estimated cost thereof having been estimated at 25 millions. We may therefore without hesitation express our complete approval of this undertaking of the government.

With reference to the treaty in connection with the international waterways between the United States and Canada, to the Act based on these negotiations and the resultant treaty, I would wish, if there is yet time, to propose to the government, to introduce into the treaty or into the Act, certain provisions with a view to putting an end to that crime against nature, on which I addressed the House in the course of last session—I mean the contamination and pollution of our great fluvial arteries, by the criminal deposit, practised at all times and still continuing to-day, of sewerage from all parts of the territory bordering on these waterways. It is high time that our great waterways, our lakes and streams cease to be used as sewers, generating and spreading the