

permanent. In that way this empire and the great adjoining republic would give to the world an object lesson which is very much needed in these days of great armaments and great preparations for war; and then we might look forward to a day, which may come, and which I hope will come, when the great republic and this great empire, acting together in the interests of humanity and civilization, can command and will command the peace of the world.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have spoken of the similarity of problems in the United States of America and some of those which confront us in this country, and to one of these I would like to address myself for a moment, in connection with the recent visit—I do not know whether it was political or non-political—which my right hon. friend the Prime Minister has made to that great western territory of Canada. We know that in the United States, not so many years ago, and perhaps even at the present day, there has been a supposed divergence of interest, and perhaps sometimes a real divergence of sentiment, between the great east and the even greater west. The physical conditions of the country accounted for that perhaps to some extent. There may have been other reasons upon which it is not desirable that I should dwell to-day. But it is well for the people of the east of Canada and the people of the west of Canada as well to remember and to realize that in this country we have an exactly similar problem to that which presented itself and perhaps still presents itself to the people of the United States. For my part, I would be inclined to say that in Canada that problem may be a little more accentuated than it has ever appeared to be in the United States. I say that for many reasons which might be adduced. In this country, unlike the United States, we have a very considerable extent of territory at the present time not occupied by any considerable population, lying between the great east and the great west. I say that for the further reason that there is a very great problem of transportation in this country, as there has been in the United States. I say it also for the reason that there has been and is to-day in Canada a great fiscal problem which has to be solved as between the east and the west, and to which both east and west must give consideration. I say it because in the west to-day we are undertaking an immigration problem such as never has been attempted in the world before. I believe that my hon. friend from Medicine Hat (Mr. Magrath), in the course of a monograph on that subject demonstrated to the satisfaction of every thinking man who has read it that we are undertaking in the west of Canada a problem of assimilation of an immigrant population greater than any other country up to the present time has ever under-

taken. We must not fail to bear that in mind. We must not fail also to bear in mind, having regard to the physical conditions of this country, and having regard to the fact that that immigration comes not only from the British Isles and the continent of Europe, but from the south as well, in great and constantly increasing numbers, that there is a certain pull which may tend to send our lines of communication north and south instead of east and west, where it has been the aspiration of all public men in this country to send them. These are some of the matters for consideration, not only by public men in this country, but by all the people of this country; and upon the consideration and the wise solution of these problems will depend very much the future of this country so far as its prosperity is concerned and so far as its potency and force as one of the great nations of the British Empire are concerned.

So I come for a moment to the visit of my right hon. friend the Prime Minister to the west. I observed that he was met in western Canada by some of these very problems to which I have alluded. One of the very first questions which he encountered in meeting various delegations and assemblages of the people in that country was that of the tariff, and I am bound to say that in some of the addresses which were presented to him, and in some of the speeches which were made to him by the spokesmen of these various delegations, the Prime Minister found, as I have no doubt, a very close and perhaps very interesting reminiscence of some speeches which he delivered in that great western country in the year 1894. So far as I was able to observe, these reminiscences did not prove in all cases to be highly agreeable to my right hon. friend, and he was very much disposed to put aside as considerations that might very well be left to the future some matters that he pressed upon the attention of those people with very earnest insistence in 1894. In considering the answers which my right hon. friend made to those delegations I was somewhat surprised to find that the old enthusiasm of 1894 for free trade as it is in England and for a revenue tariff had almost completely disappeared. I was astonished to find that there was not the same enthusiasm and vigour as had characterized his utterances and the utterances of my hon. friend the Minister of Customs in the good old days before 1896. I do not think my right hon. friend the Prime Minister made up his mind what he had better say on the subject until he arrived at Yorkton. There, on the 20th of July, about ten days after he had begun his tour, he spoke to the expectant west in these terms:—

If I had my own way I would have a free British tariff.