

be relieved of their population and the sparsely peopled areas be populated? That is one problem. The other problem is that of development. I will not at this time endeavour to point out what the resources of this empire are, nor how great a part Canada plays in any development of these resources. In nickel, asbestos, lead, tin, gold, silver, metals, minerals, wood products—in all these there are abundant resources in Canada as well as in other parts of the empire: copper in Rhodesia, diamonds in South Africa and great cotton fields in India and Egypt. We have one-fourth of the people of the world, although it is true that part of them are backward races, unsuited to our country. So I suggest to the government that since England can no longer take the lead with respect to this matter, this country should call a great economic conference to meet in Ottawa. Let the Dominion of Canada take the lead; let us call an economic conference of the British Empire to meet in this city to consider, after being properly informed, the two great problems of settlement and development. That would be a step forward and would ensure to us what the Minister of Trade and Commerce must realize we are running a chance of losing overnight through hostile tariffs, namely, our markets. I can only say that if we who sit to the left of the Speaker were entrusted with the responsibilities of power to-morrow one of our first actions would be to ask that representatives of this great empire meet in this capital city of Ottawa in a great economic conference to grapple and deal with the problems of settlement and development, for one-fourth of the world's people are not trustees for nothing. Where England may not take the lead, as she may not at the moment in a matter of this kind for reasons which are obvious, we may point the way, remembering that the first of the colonial conferences, which ultimately became imperial conferences, sat in this city. A great economic conference brought together through the initiative of the Canadian government would be able to work out a solution of these problems which would not be temporary in its character, which would not be subject to adverse and hostile legislation, but which would represent the agreed views of one-fourth of the world's people, occupying one-fourth of the world's area. That in itself would do much to secure for all time that outlawry of war, that perpetual peace, for which all democracies are striving.

I leave that suggestion with the administration in the hope that they may be pleased to adopt it for the benefit of this country and for the good of the empire to which we belong.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I wish to join very heartily with my hon. friend the leader of the opposition (Mr. Bennett), in, and at the same time to thank him for, the words of commendation which he uttered with regard to the speeches made by the hon. members who moved and seconded the motion on the address. Both were excellent speeches. The hon. member for South Oxford (Mr. Cayley) has been in this house for two years; he is known to us all and we had reason to expect that when he sought to review the causes underlying the prosperity of the country, he would bring to bear in his remarks the experience which he gained during years as a teacher in the schools of this country, and that he would give to the house an analysis which would be cogent in its reasoning and forcible in its expression. He acquitted himself admirably, and is to be warmly congratulated on the manner in which he moved the address. To the hon. member for Joliette (Mr. Ferland), who seconded the motion, it must have been a formidable task to come into the House of Commons and be obliged to make a speech within twenty-four hours of his introduction. All who were present were more than charmed, I am sure, with the manner in which the hon. member acquitted himself on that occasion. It was a maiden speech, and I venture to say it was one of the best maiden speeches ever delivered in this House of Commons by any hon. member. We will look forward with interest to his further contributions to debates in this chamber.

Now may I extend one word of congratulation to my hon. friend? I should like to compliment him upon the brevity of his speech. If the government may be congratulated on nothing else, at least it is to be congratulated in having put into the lips of His Excellency a speech which at least partially silenced the leader of the opposition. I am not surprised that my hon. friend was brief in his remarks. He had a very difficult task to perform, in some respects the most difficult he ever has had. He could not deny the prosperity which exists in this country at present. After all, one of the great objectives of government is to make a people happy, contented and prosperous, and when a government is able to exact from the leader of the opposition the admission that the country is happy, contented and prosperous, that government has great reason for congratulation.

I noticed however, that while my hon. friend was prepared to admit the prosperity he was not inclined to give the government