

other industrial interests of Canada; 'That in the opinion of this House the adoption of a policy of mutual trade preference within the Empire would prove of great benefit to the Mother Country and to the Colonies, and would greatly promote the prosperity, unity and progress of the Empire as a whole. And that the present time, when the Commonwealth of Australia is laying the foundation of its fiscal system, is particularly opportune for taking prompt and energetic steps towards the furtherance of this object. This House is further of opinion that equivalent duties should be imposed by Canada upon the products and manufactures of countries not within the Empire in all cases where such countries fail to admit Canadian products and manufactures upon fair terms, and that the Government should take for this purpose all such available measures as may be found necessary.'

On this a lively discussion took place which brought out a very decided expression of opinion from the Government that the present preferential tariff would be maintained, and that, in their judgment, there was no prospect of England changing its fiscal policy.

BANQUET TO MR. W. M. RAMSAY.

A banquet was given in honour of Mr. W. M. Ramsay, on his retirement from the managership of the Standard Life Assurance Company, by representatives of the insurance companies in this city and other friends. The presence of the representatives of the fire insurance companies as well as those conducting the same class of business with which Mr. Ramsay has been associated for half a century in this city, was a signal and highly gratifying manifestation of the deep and universal respect for him entertained for many years. We may say, indeed, from a very early period in his career in Canada. The banquet was held at the St. James's Club, and was worthy of so auspicious an occasion. The artistic menu card had a portrait of the guest of honour, which will be prized as a souvenir.

Mr. G. F. C. Smith presided, and contributed much to the success of the banquet and enjoyment of those present. Amongst those at the table were: Messrs. E. B. Greenshields, Dr. Girdwood, E. P. Heaton, D. M. McGoun, S. P. Stearns, E. L. Bond, T. B. Macaulay, C. Henshaw, David Burke, B. Hal Brown, I. McGregor, Lt.-Col. Whitehead, F. W. Evans, R. W. Tyre, Fayette Brown, I. Hutton Balfour, F. H. Christmas, Lansing Lewis, A. Macdougald, F. F. Parkins, E. A. Lilly, J. E. E. Dickson, Harold Hampson, E. W. Wilson, T. L. Morrissey, F. F. Rolland, T. H. Hudson, P. M. Wickham, H. M. Lambert, Randall Davidson, R. Hope Atkinson, W. S. Robertson, W. I. Joseph and Edw. Rawlings. Letters of regret were read from Mr. Thomas Davidson, managing director of the North British & Mercantile; Mr. R. Wilson-Smith, Mr. Robt. Bickerdike, M.P., Mr. A.

T. Paterson and Mr. R. Hampson, who each expressed warm sympathy with the objects of the celebration and the highest esteem for Mr. Ramsay.

After the toast of the King had been right loyally received and drunk, the chairman, in happy and most eulogistic terms, proposed the health of the guest of the evening. After referring to his long and honourable career, and his faithful service to his company, he held up their guest as worthy of imitation by the younger men of the profession.

Lieut.-Col. Whitehead added his tribute to what had been said by the chairman, of their old friend

MR. RAMSAY'S SPEECH.

Mr. W. M. Ramsay, when he rose to reply, was greeted with a storm of cheers. He thanked those present for the honour done him, although he felt he did not deserve it. He thanked them all the more because he did not deserve it. The only reason he could see for this signal honour done by men with most of whom he had been familiar for years, but some of whom were comparatively strangers, was his long connection with the one company. He had remained with that company because he had always been handsomely treated and had never been given any reason to wish for a change. Mr. Ramsay recalled the past of Montreal, when he first came out here, as the representative of the Standard. At that time St. James street was the fashionable promenade. Business had not been so keen in those days as it was to-day. The companies coming in from the United States had wakened up the companies left in Canada after the imposition of the taxes by the Government. He had not felt the years fleeting by, but on looking back it seemed a long time since he first landed in Quebec, and began business there. Mr. Ramsay added a few words about the importance of insurance in creating a feeling of strength and prudence among the people. He closed by again thanking those present for their kindness, regretting the forced absence of some who would have liked to be with them.

The insurance profession was proposed in a witty speech by Mr. S. P. Stearns, who, referred to the insurance men as the ready victims for the imposition of all kinds of taxes. He suggested that they should combine to protect themselves.

Mr. C. Hinshaw responded to this toast, paying an earnest tribute to the guest of the evening.

Mr. F. W. Evans, in proposing the Dominion of Canada, referred to the rapid strides made by Canada, in no line more than in insurance. They were pleased to honour on this occasion one of the pioneers of that business which helped to build up the country.

Mr. E. B. Greenshields, a director of the Standard Life, added his tribute to the good work done by his fellow director, for the head office of the company in Edinburgh had determined to definitely secure the services of Mr. Ramsay as a director. Mr. Greenshields referred to the difference between the Can-