

generously and loyally their duties as citizens of Canada, their native land, to which they are deeply attached.

For the first time in the history of this country the Canadian Parliament has been opened by a Canadian. This is an extraordinary incident in our national life. It arises from the fact that Canada has just lost its Governor General, who during his sojourn in our midst has won the esteem of all Canadians, and whose remarkable talent for diplomacy will in future be exercised in a country now confronted with difficult and important problems.

Lord Willingdon's successor is a statesman of long experience who has distinguished himself also on the field of battle, in the Great War, and his coming to Canada will be welcomed with joy and with the respect and loyalty that we owe to the British Crown, of which he is the representative.

The Speech from the Throne mentions the general depression that has prevailed for some time in all countries of the world, and the wise and vigorous measures that have been taken in Canada to relieve distress, stimulate industry, give employment to work-people and overcome the financial crisis that we are at present encountering. The Government is to be congratulated upon the ability and courage with which it has met an extremely difficult and threatening situation. I am happy to say that owing to the wise policy pursued by the Government, the Province of New Brunswick up to the present time has passed through the crisis without undue suffering. The works undertaken on the initiative of the Federal Government, with the co-operation of the Province and municipalities, have been of great assistance in improving the situation and lessening unemployment, which has prevailed less among us than anywhere else in Canada.

Agriculture, lumbering and the fisheries are the chief industries of my province. All these occupations have been seriously affected by the economic depression. The new tariff imposed by Cuba against Canadian potatoes is a severe blow to us, especially in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, where potatoes are grown on an extensive scale. It is to be hoped that some remedy may be found for the present deplorable state of affairs.

The fisheries are of primary importance in the Maritime Provinces—of the same relative importance to the Maritime Provinces as wheat growing is to the West. They provide employment for large numbers of people and are an abundant source of revenue. It is

incumbent upon the Fisheries Department to give particular attention to this industry in order to maintain and develop it. The products of our Atlantic coast fisheries are unsurpassed. Our fish are noted for their choice, exquisite quality. Need I mention our oysters, known everywhere for their excellence; our lobsters, exported to the four corners of the world; our salmon, fresh and frozen, which has now entered the Old Country markets; our mackerel, smelts, cod and other varieties of fish which abound along our coasts? In the last few years especially this industry has been given a remarkable impetus, and it is the duty of the authorities to encourage and protect the fishermen who engage in it, oftentimes at great risk.

The Government's attitude towards old age pensions has been approved by the people, and I am glad to observe in the Speech from the Throne that the Government intends to take the necessary steps to give effect to the policy it has advocated in this respect.

The Government has devoted special attention to the question of the tariff. It is apparent that the measures it has taken have exercised a salutary influence on industry and trade in Canada, which in general have been stimulated by the protection afforded them, and are consequently providing more employment for the workers in this country.

It is to be hoped that the Imperial Conference, whose meetings have been adjourned until next autumn, and which will resume its labours in Ottawa, will be carried to a successful conclusion and will have beneficial results, both for our country and for the British Empire as a whole. It is a matter of pride for us to note that the Prime Minister and his colleagues who represented Canada at this Conference have upheld the great traditions of the past.

Before resuming my seat I desire to take advantage of this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, upon being appointed to preside over this august assembly. You possess in a high degree all the qualities that are necessary for the honourable, impartial and fair performance of the duties of Speaker of this honourable body.

Honourable senators, I thank you for the kind attention that you have given me, and I am sure that our deliberations at this session will be characterized by harmony, good understanding and such happy results as have attended them in the past.