

close friends, Great Britain and France? Has not the entente been somewhat shaken?" M. Briand said: "No, the entente will continue; we shall travel together, but abreast, not in tow." When Mr. Snowden, at The Hague last autumn, held out for the full share that was due Great Britain in the settlement of reparations, Lloyd George used the same expression. He said, "At last Great Britain asserts itself and is no longer in tow by France." Honourable members will realize that prestige is a very important factor, but the chief difficulty will be to give the nations a proper sense of security.

There is one great country that can give this necessary assurance, if it will only adopt an attitude a little more sympathetic towards Europe, and that is the United States of America.

My honourable friend has referred to the London conference respecting certain phases of the operation of Dominion legislation and merchant shipping. This meeting was convened for the purpose of harmonizing Imperial legislation with the resolutions adopted at the conference of 1926. I have hurriedly gone over the report, which is now before us, and I wish to congratulate the conference and its experts on the good work they have accomplished. There are some matters that are difficult to reconcile in working out a general system of laws that will satisfy the Dominions and our elder sister, Great Britain, but I think that good results will follow from the work that has been done.

I desire to draw the attention of honourable members to the Report of the Royal Commission on Technical and Professional Services, which was signed by Mr. Beatty, President of the Canadian Pacific Railway, Sir George Garneau, and Mr. Murray, the President of the University of Saskatchewan. I am not familiar with the rates of pay that have been recommended by these gentlemen, but I have read with considerable interest their statement concerning the importance of the Civil Service of Canada, the ability and merit of the men who are at the head of the various branches, as well as the experts by their side. It is gratifying to find men of the calibre of these Royal Commissioners so public-spirited as to be willing to undertake such a task and to give us the benefit of their experience. For many years I have wondered how the salaries that were paid to members of the Civil Service compared with the remuneration for similar duties outside. These three gentlemen have given us their views on this question. Until I was asked to represent the Government in this Chamber

I had no idea of the vast amount of work carried on in the various branches of the Public Service, and of the high order of ability of the men who are directing it. But as Government Bills came to this Chamber and were entrusted to my care, it was my duty to get into touch with the technical official who knew most about the proposed measure, and in that way during the last eight years I have met a large number of professional and technical men who are giving intelligent and devoted service to the country. This is not the first time that I have expressed admiration for the officials of the Civil Service, and I am happy to observe that the Royal Commissioners in their report express the same sentiment.

I will not follow my honourable friend in a discussion of the rights of the western provinces in their relations with the Dominion of Canada, since the question as it relates to one of the provinces is still under consideration.

My honourable friend has spoken of the crop failure in the West. In 1923 we heard a great deal of the failure of the crops in southern Alberta and southern Saskatchewan. The situation was really most discouraging, and it was felt that the best solution would be to offer land elsewhere in the Northwest to the settlers in that part of the country which has been affected by the drought. If I am not mistaken, there were five consecutive crop failures in that particular section of the Northwest. On the other hand, there is some satisfaction in the thought that it usually takes but two or three good crops to enable the West to recover. I only hope that Providence will look kindly upon the West, and that within the next two or three years, or even sooner, the situation will have been remedied.

My honourable friend has spoken of the Australian and the New Zealand treaties as having played havoc with the dairying industry in the Northwest. He has declared, however, that he does not shut his eyes to the fact that advantages have accrued to Canada from the signing of those treaties. All I can tell my honourable friend is that the operation of those two treaties has not been lost sight of by the Administration. The relations between Canada and the other parts of the Commonwealth will be reviewed at the Imperial Conference, and it is hoped to evolve a general system that will be acceptable to all. When I speak of a general system, I am not thinking of free trade within the Commonwealth. I do not know what conclusions the Imperial Conference may reach. I do know, however, that if men of goodwill