

it is practically impossible, if not actually impossible, for the railways connecting the different colonies, to carry freight and passengers, and have through shipments as we are enabled to do in Canada. On account of the differences in gauge and system, they have to transfer the goods and passengers at the border of each colony, and it has been very difficult to do business under these conditions. I have no doubt the creation of the commonwealth will lead to the consolidation of the tariff, and the adoption of a uniform gauge for the railways, and will develop their own trade greatly, giving the facilities for the development of trade between Canada and Australia, from which we will benefit largely. No doubt, from present indications, there will be, early in the life of the new commonwealth, a general tariff, probably not differing materially from the Canadian tariff.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. JONES—I hope that they will give that preference to Great Britain that Canada has seen fit to concede. I hope also that that preference will extend to Canada, and I am glad that we have already on our statute-books a law enabling the Canadian government to extend to Australia the same preferential advantages that we now offer to Great Britain and some of the other British colonies. In fact, at present, I think in the case of the colony of New South Wales, the preferential tariff is already in force. New South Wales, I may say, is practically a free trade colony. I understand that an invitation has been given to Canada to send representatives there. I sincerely trust that Canada will take advantage of this opportunity and do so, and I hope Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the prime minister, will see his way clear to represent Canada in connection with the opening of the first parliament of the commonwealth. It will be greatly in the interests of Canada if he will be able to do so. We congratulate Australia on its consolidation, and on its, to some extent, copying the Canadian parliament in its consolidation. I greatly hope, as is indicated in the speech from the Throne, that the Pacific cable, a necessary link in the carrying on of trade and commerce with Australia, will, in

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the near future, become an accomplished fact. Reference has also been made to the fact that His Royal Highness, the Duke of Cornwall and York, intends going to Australia to be present and open the first parliament. I have understood by the newspapers that, notwithstanding his bereavement, he will still go. I hope that he will, and I trust that the invitation that has been extended to him from Canada to come this way on his return will be accepted, and that he may see Canada, as he would have an excellent opportunity of doing, coming from the west and passing through to the east, from ocean to ocean. It is gratifying to know that in a visit of this kind the Duke of York will find it necessary to go all the way round the world. The British chain of colonies and possessions, anchored in Great Britain, will have reached the entire distance, and it is pleasing to know that Canada is one of the links, in fact the largest link in the British chain. Let us hope that in the near future the Duke of York may have an opportunity of paying a visit to South Africa, there to consolidate the several provinces or colonies into one grand commonwealth, whose people will be as happy and contented under the new conditions as Canada is, and as Australia will be. Reference is also made to the Paris exposition, and I am very pleased to say that, from personal knowledge, I have no doubt that that has been of great benefit to the manufacturing interests of Canada. I know that great advantages have accrued to Canadians from the exhibit made there, and I think hon. gentlemen who visited it found from Canada, not only in the natural products, in the fruits and grain, but in the manufactures, a very creditable display as compared with the surrounding displays. In this connection I am pleased to know that the government intend exhibiting at the Glasgow exhibition, an exhibition to open within two or three months, which will afford another excellent opportunity for the display of Canadian products, and will be greatly for the benefit of Canada. Reference is made to His Excellency's visit to the Yukon and North-west Territories, and seeing a large part of Canadian territory. It is gratifying to know that we have made very considerable progress in all the west, in mining as well as agriculture.