

and how to fulfil their own ambitions and aspirations. Nevertheless, I would point out to my farmer friends that the Laurier government went down to defeat in 1911 fighting the battles of the farmer. I am also bound to say that when we talk of the East being against the West, and the West against the East, that was not the condition during the reciprocity campaign of 1911. The Liberals carried every seat in the island of Cape Breton, which is an industrial, coal mining hive, notwithstanding the fact that the reciprocity agreement made provision for the reduction of the duty on coal. At that time we fought the battles of the farmers of the West and of the farmers of the East—we fought for the farmers generally throughout the country. I have no doubt that to-day the farmers, organized as they are, are well able to fight their own battles, but where are they going for better markets? A year ago the country to the south erected a tariff wall against the products of this country, a tariff wall which is absolutely prohibitive so far as the products of the farmers are concerned. Where are our farmer friends going for larger markets? They cannot get into the United States at the present time; and surely they do not ask us as free born Canadians to let down the tariff walls of Canada at a time when our products are debarred free entrance into the country to the south? Speaking solely for myself I consider that the government have undertaken to solve this problem by the best method which lies in their power. Our neighbours to the south met us with high tariffs. The Minister of Finance went to Washington a year ago, but there was no use in dickering any longer, the Canadian people having turned down the reciprocity pact. Accordingly members of this government crossed the seas to Europe, hoping to find there some solution that would afford relief to the farmers of the West as well as of the Canadian people generally. There lies the solution of the problem with respect to wider markets if wider markets we need.

The question of whether there should be a reduction in the tariff is one for the government of this country to consider. I have no doubt that the Minister of Finance and his colleagues will be able to advance adequate reasons why no mention has been made of the tariff in the Speech from the Throne, but I wish to say this: As good Canadians, as broad-minded Canadians, as Canadians who have at heart the interest of our country as a whole, we should unite in every possible way in order to find a solution for the problems which confront us. For only

in that way may we hope to fulfil the aspirations of those who made Confederation possible. In that way we shall best develop this country and make it a happy and prosperous land for our children and our children's children. In that way likewise we shall be doing the work we were sent to this parliament to perform.

Mr. GEORGE BLACK (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, at the very outset of the Speech from the Throne His Excellency the Governor General refers to his visit to the Yukon territory, the constituency I have the honour to represent in this House. I am sure it will be very satisfactory to Yukoners to learn from this public declaration that Their Excellencies retain pleasant memories of that distant country, and to know that the willing efforts of the people of Yukon to make the viceregal visit an interesting and comfortable one evidently met with success. I can assure you, Sir, that the keen appreciation displayed by Their Excellencies in the somewhat unique conditions under which the people up there are living, in the history of the country, and in the hopes and plans of the people for the future, won the hearts of all with whom they came in contact. The name of General Byng, Commander of the Canadian Corps, national hero, was already a household word in Yukon; but by meeting Lord and Lady Byng, the man and the woman, hundreds of Yukoners were able to understand and to share the admiration in which the distinguished soldier is held by so many thousands of Canadians who served under his leadership.

I join with the leader of the Opposition (Mr. Meighen) and the leader of the Progressive party (Mr. Forke) in regret that the Speech from the Throne is of necessity so barren of any statement of substantial achievement by the government in the improvement of Canadian affairs. I cannot say that I am very much surprised at that necessary absence, because I am not one of those who expected that a change of government would usher in the millennium. Coming into this House for the first time as a member at the last session of parliament, at a time when industrial conditions in Yukon were in a most unsettled condition, when the great industry of mining was in a transitory state, when new developments undertaken up there were of somewhat doubtful results, I hesitated to call the attention of members of this House to that part of the country, and I think members of the government with whom it was my duty to negotiate for assistance in development