

good nature evidenced by the head of the executive is not the mere outcome of parliamentary usage. We are aware that His Excellency is in sympathy with the Canadian people, a fresh proof of which is to be found in the celebration of the Quebec tercentenary, to which His Excellency makes a telling reference in the speech from the Throne.

In listening to the utterances of the representative of the Crown, the splendours of the tercentenary celebration were vividly brought back to our minds. Old Quebec was seen once more amidst fairylike surroundings; the august heir of our sovereign resting in yonder citadel, under the protection of the guns; surrounding him, the official representatives of the various provinces of the Dominion, besides those of sister colonies and of several powerful nations; friendly fleets flying over the expanse of the finest port in the world, the colours of Great Britain, of France, of the United States, and covering the fields, crowds of people who had hastened from all parts of Canada and foreign countries to pay homage to the immortal founder of the Canadian nation.

As we all know, His Excellency was, within constitutional bounds, the leading and inspiring mind of that national celebration. To my mind, we should be mindful of it, and grateful for it, and that part of the speech from the Throne is worthy of our full approval.

The second part has reference to measures which are submitted to us. I do not propose pointing them out seriatim. On the whole, they give the impression that the diplomatic work of the government is constantly expanding. It was diplomacy, and diplomacy of a high class, which inspired that tercentenary celebration, the result being to cause the axis of the British empire to oscillate, as it were, and to make us believe that the entente cordiale between two great nations must in truth be finally concluded on the very battlefields which have been the witnesses of their heroic and glorious deeds. It was also the part of diplomacy to negotiate, through the intervention of our ministers, that treaty of commerce with France, which will soon be, let us hope so, an accomplished fact. It was diplomacy again, which prompted that extraordinary peace-making mission to Japan, a mission which put in such strong light the great capabilities of one of the youngest and most brilliant members of this government. It was diplomacy also which brought about the official participation of the Canadian government in the establishment of a permanent international bureau of agriculture, one of our ministers, the representative of our farming community being elected to fill one of the highest offices on the board of management. There are also diplomatic doings in prospect with a view to the settlement of great inter-

national differences having reference to our business intercourse with the United States, China, Germany, Australia, the West Indies, &c. It seems as though Canada, under its present government, and owing to its geographical position and to its marvellous development, were bound to become an important factor in the world's political activity.

Surely, it would be incongruous on our part, as members of the House of Commons and representatives of the people, to complain of a state of things which is of a nature to enhance the reputation and prosperity of our country. We should congratulate on that account His Excellency and the government. Neither should we stop at that, for our mandate imposes certain duties upon us, and particularly that of putting into shape and enacting governmental measures and of voting the sums required for the carrying out of such measures.

The outcome of the general elections has shown that the people have confidence in the administration. We are here as representatives of the people to see to it that their mandate is complied with.

The programme which is submitted to us contains nothing that is not a continuation or a conformation of the policy followed by the administration since 1896. The government are concerning themselves more and more with the task of increasing and extending the network of our railway system. They are carrying on with economy and caution, but at the same time with a comprehensive grasp of the whole question, the building of public works considered of interest to the country as a whole. I understand that the improvement of the port of Quebec, which towards the north is bounded in part by the verdant shores of my own county, will be one of the matters to be submitted to the judgment of this House.

As regards that gigantic undertaking, the National Transcontinental railway, it is with pleasure that we learn of its early completion. The work is being pushed through with tremendous activity. The whole line is now under contract, and we have been given to understand that by the time the next crop is harvested, Alberta wheat may be shipped by the new route, from Edmonton to Winnipeg, and thence to the Great Lakes. That means a closer bond between the provinces, and greater wealth for the country as a whole, pending the time when it will be the shortest route from ocean to ocean, and the most direct means of communication between Europe and the Far East, in accordance with the hopes conceived in early times by the discoverer of America and the founder of Quebec.

I remember having, twenty years ago, in 1889, visited the Paris world's fair, and having gone through the building which contained an immense globe representing our