

and industrial disaster unless a radical change took place in the trade policies of Canada, a change which has not been made.

In discussing the question of Canada's prosperity, Mr. Speaker, there is one unfavourable feature which should be mentioned, and that is the fact that this prosperity has not been as evenly distributed as might have been the case, or as we would have liked to see it. I am not now referring particularly to the distribution as between classes in the community, although a good deal could be said as to that; I am referring to the territorial distribution of prosperity in which the people in the maritime provinces, unfortunately, have been slow to share. For that condition of affairs there are many causes, most of which are beyond the control of any government. I wish, however, to mention just one cause, which is not at all original since it has been mentioned in this house many times, but nevertheless a very real reason for the tardiness on the part of the maritime provinces to share in the prosperity of Canada. That cause is the lack of markets for agricultural products in that part of the Dominion.

It may be difficult for people who live in the central part of Canada, in close proximity to the great cities which furnish such an admirable market for their products, to understand the difficulties which confront the farmers of the maritime provinces. They are not near large cities and have to depend to a very large extent on foreign markets for their products. It is true that since the passage of legislation last session in connection with freight rates we have been able to ship our products a little further west, and in a few instances a good deal further west into our Canadian markets, but still we have to depend to a very large extent upon foreign markets.

I venture to say that in the western part of Nova Scotia, and in other parts of the maritime provinces similarly situated, one sentence in the speech from the throne will offer as much hope as anything else. The sentence to which I refer is:

Among other important matters to which your attention will be invited will be measures providing for more favourable trade relations between Canada and certain foreign countries.

If I may be permitted to do so I would like to make a concrete suggestion to the government and in particular to the Minister of Finance with regard to the extension of foreign markets and the improvement of Canada's trade relations with foreign countries. I would say: Do not forget the agricultural

producers of the maritime provinces, and in particular do not forget the apple growers of Nova Scotia, who are now shut out of the German market, which is an exceedingly valuable market, by prohibitive duties while apples grown by their American competitors are permitted entry under favoured nation treatment.

I would also remind you of the potato growers of the maritime provinces; within the last two months Cuba has placed an almost prohibitive tariff on Canadian potatoes, with disastrous results as far as the price is concerned, while as in the other instance American potatoes are admitted at lower rates. In other words, nothing would be more appreciated in the maritime provinces than trade treaties with Germany and Cuba which would remedy these evils. I know that in negotiating these trade treaties the country with which you are negotiating requires a quid pro quo, and other interests in the Dominion might be adversely affected, but I am pleading for the producers of agricultural products in the maritime provinces, and I feel that if my suggestions could be carried into effect the benefit which they would derive would be very great.

I would not like this house to infer that conditions in the maritime provinces are by any means hopeless; that is far from the case. In the province of Nova Scotia very great progress has been made in many directions during the past year. The production of coal has increased very materially, and the action of the Dominion government in appointing a royal commission to investigate conditions in the fishing industry and bring in recommendations for the improvement of conditions has been a great encouragement to the fishermen of the maritime provinces. In addition to that the production in many lines of agricultural endeavour has increased quite considerably. There is also a revival of interest in mining in Nova Scotia and the other maritime provinces as well, which in itself is very promising.

No reference to conditions in the maritime provinces would be complete without a word of appreciation for the loyal, honourable, and generous way in which the government of Canada has carried out and is carrying out the recommendations made by the Duncan commission. In November of last year we had a Dominion-provincial conference in this city, and that conference was of inestimable value in making clear the viewpoints of the various parts of Canada both to the Dominion government and to each other. In particular, perhaps as a result of that con-