

fit both for the employer and the employee; in the development of our land and by waterways, and principally in the Canadian people who love their country and work every day for its progress.

In this vast field of our operations we are all, I think, guided by the same desire of doing good. The field of our operation is beautiful; but we need good pilots such as those that we have, for the responsibilities are heavy and the reefs are treacherous.

We see in the speech from the Throne that the first thought of the new Government has been for the farmer. What do the left, who have cried everywhere that our party was opposed to the agricultural class, say about that?

Let us aid agriculture, Mr. Speaker, it is the most solid basis of our country, it is the domain from which the nation draws its best forces and its most durable wealth. It is the farmer who has just saved Canada from the reciprocity trap. In fact, take the verdict of Ontario and you will see how deep are the roots which bind the farmer to the Canadian land; take the verdict of Quebec, and out of the twenty-seven counties which were carried by the Conservative party in spite of the desperate appeal of our opponents, you find twenty-four rural constituencies, among which the most beautiful is certainly Dorchester, whatever my honourable colleagues may say.

It is the duty of governments to give a paternal attention to these sturdy workers who grow the harvests which nourish mankind.

It is by agricultural products that our country has gained a world-wide reputation. The new government has recognized this in getting to work; we must congratulate them very cordially for it.

In these late years, steps of the greatest importance are made by men whom I think are very sincere, in order to draw us in the new policy called military imperialism. This policy has provoked discussion in Canada, principally since the old administration has voted the Navy Bill, and many of its most ardent champions have gone so far as taxing of disloyalty those who differed from them on this question. Notwithstanding the calumnies in a certain press it is not my intention to recriminate, after the words of peace and union which I have uttered a few minutes ago. Some have too hastily passed judgment upon my compatriots of Quebec. I say my Quebec compatriots because I know them better than the Canadians of the other provinces who were in unity with them upon this question. The flag that we love is unfurled to all the breezes of the world, and each British colony, like each British subject, has received the mission and undertaken the duty of defending it. History shows that French Canadians have

always faithfully fulfilled their duty.

In this country, both people, English and French, have one ideal and one common destiny. I am convinced that on this policy as upon all others, it is possible to come to an understanding if we have for each other mutual respect.

I think that the strifes of France, the old mother country of French Canadians, and those of England, the mother country of every one of us, were acute enough to justify us to repeat, as said Musset:

*La mer y passerait sans laver la souillure,
Car l'abime est immense et la tache est au fond.*

However, what a comforting spectacle they gave us a few weeks ago when we saw them uniting their flag, their pride and their honour and telling Germany to abandon its audacity.

This example of 'entente cordiale' comes from high enough, it seems to me, that it should be followed in our politics by those English and French living in Canada, who call themselves Canadians and who have the same flag.

Mr. Speaker, French Canadians, like the Canadians of other provinces, are opposed to this unfortunate law voted by the Liberal government, providing for the construction of a war navy which will be ruinous for Canada and useless to our country and to the empire.

If French Canadians are opposed to this law it is not through lack of loyalty. I affirm that French Canadians are just as loyal as any other Canadian. Those who doubt the loyalty of the French Canadians should know them better. They should come in our churches and hear the people singing every Sunday this prayer 'Domine salvum fac regem.' They should be in Quebec, the most French city of Canada, in circumstances such as marked the coronation of our sovereign a few months ago, and they would see for themselves all our people abandoning their work and filling the churches to sing the hymn of Thanksgiving, the *Te Deum*.

Mr. Speaker, let every one of us join in mutual respect for all, and let us remember that the presence of the two races on this continent was not brought about by human will, but by God's providence. In being united and working together we can make great things with this young giant whose name is Canada.

Mr. Speaker, the European governments did not realize until a few years ago the importance and the future of British North America. It was Sir John Young, who became Lord Lisgar, who said in Quebec, about the year 1865 that Canada was free to remain united to the metropolis or to part from her, that Great Britain was giving full liberty. It was, in other words, the famous 'arpents de neige' of Voltaire

Mr. SEVIGNY.