

name and fame are the common heritage, not of the citizens of our own empire only, but of the people of all countries and all nations; not only because he is the representative of our King and Emperor, but because of those matchless qualities of heart and mind that have ever endeared him to those with whom during a long and successful official life he has been associated. We are reminded that the beginning of his military career found him offering his services to His Sovereign for the protection of our own country from threatened invasion and that whether actively participating in great battles on the burning sands of Egypt, holding high military command in India, Ireland and Malta, or as an administrator or the special representative of his Sovereign on high diplomatic missions, he has ever brought to the discharge of those multitudinous and onerous duties, great ability and great tact and the manifestation of a spirit of patriotic devotion and self sacrifice that has commanded alike the affectionate regard, the respect and admiration of his fellow countrymen; while his illustrious consort has been the exemplification of all those virtues that are inseparably connected in our minds with the words 'home and mother.'

To many of us, it seems but fitting that a member of the Royal Family should open a new Parliament, with a new government with a clear mandate from the people on a great issue, indicating in no uncertain terms a settled conviction that the Canadian people would consider no trade proposals that menaced, even remotely, their fiscal and national independence, or threatened to lessen the strength of the ties that bind them to the British Empire, or rendered for a moment more difficult the realization of the hope that lives in all of us for the commercial and organic union of that empire.

Mr. Speaker, the risk was real and the danger imminent. I doubt not that when the proposals to which I have referred were first introduced, they were regarded merely as trade proposals; but when it was ascertained that in their ultimate results they involved the whole future of Canada, then it was that the national spirit of our people was aroused. I venture to think that the right hon. gentleman who so successfully leads the opposition in this House would not have introduced those proposals if he could have foreseen that there would have arisen around them an agitation, the results of which were so vital to the imperial and national future of the country. While I mention the name of the right hon. gentleman, may I be permitted to tender to him my sincere congratulations upon his having attained another anniversary of his natal day, with the expression of the hope that he may be long spared faithfully and

Mr. R. B. BENNETT.

illustriously to serve the state in the position which he at present occupies.

Mr. Speaker, in that portion of this great Dominion in which I am privileged to reside, a very substantial portion of our population has come from the great republic to the south, and one of the strongest reasons I had for opposing the reciprocity agreement was that it threw into the melting pot for solution a question that involved a problem in patriotism. When we remember that so large a portion of our population came from that great republic, where they inherited traditions that were at least not favourable to monarchical institutions; when they learned through the medium of the American press, that, however, much their former political parties differed with each other, they showed unanimity in favour of these proposals, and when they found American public men preaching a doctrine that indicated that the consequences of this agreement would be the absorption of western Canada at least by the great republic, and at all events rendering impossible for all time the commercial and organic union of these overseas dominions and the motherland which comprise the British Empire, it was little wonder that these people allied themselves with those who were in favour of the reciprocity pact. But it is a pleasure for me to say on behalf of these new settlers that as soon as they discovered that the Canadian people were not in favour of the agreement, they responded to the prevailing sentiment, and made it apparent that they proposed to devote their time and energies to the upbuilding of this great country just as they had done in the land from which they came; and, as they are settlers who are accustomed to pioneer conditions, they are enabled, now that this question is settled for ever, to assist us in laying the foundations of a great state, and in building up in western Canada a country which will at no distant day be the greatest part of this great confederation. That is, I think, a cause for congratulation and for rejoicing.

The speech itself indicates an earnest desire on the part of the government to at once realize the responsibilities to western Canada. We in the west have produced abundant crops. Our contribution to the wealth of the state this year will not be less than \$200,000,000 by a population of a little more than a million, and it is but natural that we should look for some lavish public expenditures that will advance the interests of the agriculturists. With a buoyant and increasing revenue, and with expanding trade, we in the west do not require expenditures for lighthouses or breakwaters, or wharfs, unless perhaps some like those built in recent years by hon. gentlemen opposite where