

The Address—Mr. Cayley

That is a fairly strong expression, but as yet not an over-stated one.

Let me also quote from that Great British statesman, Sir Austen Chamberlain, British Secretary of State, who while speaking to the Canadian Club at Ottawa in November used words which should cause every Canadian to glow with pride:

I have seen a great nation to the formation of which two great nations gave their best. I have seen a nation rich already in historic tradition, the early chapters of whose story are as full of romance as any novel of Sir Walter Scott's. I have seen the immense development of recent years and can foresee the still greater development which awaits you. I have never been far from the international boundary line which needs no guards, for the good sense and the good feeling of the nations on either side of it are their mutual security. I have seen Canada side by side with this great and friendly kindred nation, yet the guardian of her own soul, true to her own traditions, making her own laws and forming her own society. There lies in front of you a future beyond any dreams one can form to-day. Continue to be your own selves and while you develop your own freedom, help us to guard the unity of the empire.

Since the last session of parliament Canada has been honoured by a visit from the members of the inter-parliamentary union which met last year in Ottawa. At this conference many matters were dealt with that were of interest to the empire, but the one question of paramount importance and interest was how the great commonwealth could be drawn together as an economic unit. Since that meeting some things have occurred which make it all the more important that this great Imperial hook-up should be instituted. Canada has always exhibited an active and practical interest in the development of inter-empire trade by granting British preferences and by her immigration policy, and the latest gesture was a Christmas box in the form of imperial penny postage. The Empire Marketing Board, towards the support of which the British government grants \$5,000,000 annually, urges by advertising the purchase of empire goods. By this means the United Kingdom is increasing the patronage of empire countries. In 1924 it bought goods from the empire to the value of \$1,930,000,000; in 1927 this had increased to \$2,100,000,000, and 1928 will show a new high record. The experiment of the Empire Marketing Board has shown what can be done if energy is efficiently and intelligently applied. The British commonwealth is potentially a market and an economic unit beside which anything else is dwarfed. Canadians view with pride and satisfaction the steps taken by the government during the past few months to improve

[Mr. Cayley.]

the arrangements for direct personal contact in the discussion of inter-imperial and foreign affairs. The Dominion's wonderful growth in world trade and commerce—a record unequalled by any nation of equal population—has made this step highly important. It is hoped that thus the unity of the empire may be strengthened and Canadian interests abroad and within the empire better served. Since the last session there has arrived in Ottawa the High Commissioner for His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; the Japanese legation was established in July; the French legation in November; a Canadian legation was recently established in Paris, and at an early day a Canadian legation will be opened in the capital of Japan. Canada gives these representatives of other nations a cordial welcome to her capital.

Many comments are heard these days on Canada's prosperity. Among the most striking comments is the following statement:

Our forests are producing to-day wealth beyond anything we dreamed of; our mines are the richest in the world; power is our second greatest industry; our trade, railway traffic, bank deposits, revenues, insurance policies, everything that denotes expansion and prosperity, both of the state and the individual, have grown with bewildering speed.

And further it has this to say:

The employment situation in Canada is officially reported to be decidedly more favourable than for eight years.

Every year sees new markets opened to Canadian products, the very limited number at the time of confederation having now increased to well over a hundred. The report of the trade of Canada for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1928, contains some very interesting information. Canada now occupies fifth place among the nations of the world in imports, in exports and in aggregate trade, being surpassed only by the United States, the United Kingdom, France and Germany. The great seaports of Canada—Montreal, Vancouver, Halifax, St. John, Quebec—the busy highways, the great transportation systems, the lake and canal trade, all reflect this important advance.

The report of Canada's trade for the year ending March 31, 1928, again reveals the astonishing prosperity and absorbing power of the country. For 1928 the Dominion's trade reached the new high peak of \$2,596,448,000, as compared with \$2,325,782,000 in 1927, \$2,291,939,000 in 1926, and \$2,173,098,000, in 1925. This means a gain of nearly half a billion dollars in four years. The policy of the government in developing trade throughout the