

soldier, he has ever set an example in his own person of the extent to which those who have had the defence of our flag and Empire in their hands from time to time have exemplified the watchwords of the British soldier, those watchwords being Duty, Discipline and Mercy. But I am not at all sure that the historian will not record, Sir, that in the peculiar crisis through which we have been passing in the last eighteen months—and here I am almost certain that the Government will agree with me—we have owed as much at least to His Royal Highness as a statesman as we have owed to him either as a soldier or as a prince.

Keeping still to grounds of agreement, I desire to express my entire approval of the paragraph in the Address which bids us all be thankful for the bounteous harvest which we have had. I rather agree with my right hon. friend and leader that there was an omission in that paragraph. When I first took up a farm in Western Canada, I did not find that Providence sent it very good crops of wheat; there was a fair crop of willow bush, of poplars and of grass. In the production of the crop we have had, I think the Government might have remembered, in framing the Address, that Providence had the active co-operation of the class upon whom for many years, if not generations, the prosperity of Canada will depend—I mean the great farming class of this community. I think they should have recognized that class especially, because a special appeal was made to them last year in the shape of a pamphlet bearing the title "Patriotism and Production." It was Providence plus the farmer—plus the pamphlet, if you like—which produced the results in which we are now rejoicing. The West especially, from which I come, has given us an example, perhaps for the first time in its history, of what it can really do if it gets proper encouragement. The fact of the matter is that in our western country we can produce almost up to the limits of the possible disposal of the produce, and it is at this point that the activity of a government needs to be associated with the activity of the farmer and the activity of Providence. It is true that at the present time, owing to the special circumstances of the war, we are getting an excellent price for wheat. Beef still remains at a figure highly remunerative to the western producer—a figure which has not descended below the mark which it first reached when

a wise government to the south of the line gave us free ingress to their markets for our beef. Pork is higher at the present time than it is in the western states, owing to a special shortage on our farms. But there is a feature from which I think the Government, and anyone of us who wants to learn, may learn a lesson, and that is that when I left home a few days ago, neighbours of mine were selling excellent oats for twenty-five cents a bushel, for which they were getting forty-five cents at the same time last year. Now there is a lesson in that fact, because there are farmers who are reflecting as to how far it is wise for them to produce big crops. It is perfectly clear that a man will be very nearly as well off if he produces one bushel and gets forty-five cents for it as he will if he produces two bushels and gets but twenty-five cents. The lesson for peace times is that, as we have that drop in oats at the present time under the extraordinary and artificial conditions created by the war, so I very much fear we must look forward to an enormous drop in the value of agricultural products the moment peace is restored. It would be a function of a wise government, therefore, as of a wise opposition, to base their thinking and their policy upon that state of affairs, which we all hope will arise so far as it relates to the re-establishment of peace. I thought I detected some evidence that the Government was preparing to learn that lesson during the recess. My hon. friend the Minister of Public Works (Hon. Robert Rogers) was in the western country, and he informed the public that he had an open mind on the question of free wheat. Well, so far as I know, he has an open mind still. But the United States boundary remains closed—that is the thing that troubles the western farmer; and an open market in the United States would be of very much greater value to us than an open mind on the part of the Minister of Public Works. The problem remains—it will be accentuated by the declaration of peace—as to how we are going to till our soil profitably in the West if we do not avail ourselves of every available means of disposing of the produce. I do not know why the mind of my hon. friend the minister was not closed in the proper way on this question. If it is closed at all, we have not got any information on the subject; I am afraid it must have closed against opening the market for wheat to the United States. I have wondered if any millers met him