

in a like manner our farming or manufacturing industries. The solicitude of the present administration for the general welfare of Canada has produced splendid results, of which an eloquent testimonial is furnished by foreign capital having no further fear of investment in our country and thus creating here and there centres of industries where to-morrow large and prosperous towns will spring up.

The speech from the throne moreover contains a reference to our inter-imperial relations. Good work was accomplished at the last Imperial conference and whatever news that has leaked out redounds to the patriotism and foresight of our delegates whose speeches over there were in keeping with Canadian statesmanship. The right hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Justice advocated the only policy which, in my humble opinion, safeguards the legitimate interests of our dear country and guarantees the permanency of the empire; that is to say the complete autonomy of the dominions and a free coöperation between the various countries thus united by the superior and powerful ties of friendship.

Citizens of Canada, without distinction of race or creed consider themselves as Britishers just as much as their brothers in England. They are loyal and desire the maintenance of the imperial ties, they nevertheless love their country and will not be happy until the day when they will fully share the privilege of British institutions for which they are ready to once more make the generous sacrifices which their ancestors made to obtain and safeguard them. Therefore they gladly welcome the appointment of the Hon. Vincent Massey as Canadian Representative to Washington. To them, it is the consecration of the courageous act of the hon. Minister of Justice, at the time Minister of Marine and Fisheries, when he attached his signature alone as Canadian representative to the 1923 Halibut treaty with the United States, and thus broke away from the old custom which required that the British ambassador in the United States' capital should be the only one authorized by His Majesty to sign, on our behalf, our conventions with our neighbours.

We are gradually progressing towards our high destinies as a nation, and we must congratulate the government which has just taken this forward step and has made such a judicious choice in the person of the first Canadian Representative.

We are invited to celebrate, this year, the diamond jubilee of the Canadian confederation. At the time when this pact was agreed upon between the provinces, it was a source of apprehension on the part of many upright

[Mr. Auger.]

and patriotic persons who doubted the possibility of a lasting agreement between the various elements in our country. However, the fathers of confederation based the Confederation pact on a spirit of harmony that will ensure its permanency. It is the spirit of fair-play, harmony, conciliation and mutual concession.

As a French Canadian, I take the liberty of expressing the feelings of my race. If we have wronged any one since Confederation, let us know whom, what race, what province, and we shall be but too happy to redress the wrong. On the other hand, I expect the same broadness of mind and the same loyalty on the part of my English speaking fellow-citizens. The jubilee of confederation should be a cause of rejoicing for all Canadians, whether they are English, Irish, Scotch or French Canadian. Again speaking on behalf of my people, we are ready to do our share in order that harmony and peace may always reign in our country.

The political history of my race shows that always we have shown a disposition to side with justice and conciliation. Never have we been moved by bigotry in voting in order to oppose a man, a party or a race. We have weighed the parties and their political programmes in the light of a reason tempered by a generous and patriotic sentiment. We want a united, happy and prosperous Canada. That is our ambition, and that explains the almost unanimous adhesion of our people to the peaceful policy of the right hon. Prime Minister and his government. We shall continue to love Canada, all its citizens and all its provinces, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from north to south, without any distinction whatsoever of race, language or creed. For my part, I hope to always support in this House, measures of justice and national welfare which will continue to bring more happiness and more prosperity within the boundaries of this country.

Consequently, and stirred by such sentiments, I have the honour to move that an address be forwarded to His Excellency the Governor General to humbly thank him for the speech which he so graciously delivered to both houses of parliament.

Mr. E. A. McPHERSON (Portage la Prairie): Mr. Speaker, I must confess that I rise to address this House with considerable fear and trembling, both mentally and physically. Knowing as I do the composition of this House, and realizing the fact that the greatest orators and statesmen of Canada have occupied the attention of this chamber on previous occasions, it is very difficult for