

God speed, he will be able to say of Canada then what Lord Dufferin said so many years ago that there is still found in Canada:

The reverence of a free people for constitutional liberty as secured by monarchical government, the recognition by the owners of half a continent of their right to share a still mightier imperium, the unswerving confidence of a modest God fearing community in their ability to vindicate their independence, to elaborate their own destiny and to guard and embellish to the utmost the glorious inheritance with which they have been endowed by Providence.

The PRIME MINISTER (Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Mr. Speaker, the House, I am sure, has listened to the observations of my hon. friend, the leader of the opposition (Mr. Borden, Halifax), with a great deal of interest varied in some respects, with some surprise. My hon. friend has proceeded from sentence to sentence. In the earlier stages of his speech, I could not but think, and I believe my impression was right, that my hon. friend had not had a good night's rest, that he had awakened this morning under the impression of some painful dream which had disturbed his equanimity and that he had not recovered. I willingly bear this testimony that it is due to my hon. friend to say that he is, generally speaking, fair and candid in his manner of treating subjects which come before the House, but on this occasion I cannot help but believe that my hon. friend, of set purpose, struggled, and I do him the justice to say with only partial success, to get away as far as he could from those attributes of his better nature. My hon. friend, perhaps remembering that he has behind him and beside him some followers who are of a fiery disposition, thought that if it were possible he would get them under his control by launching forth some of their bellicose invectives. My hon. friend proceeded to make good what I am now saying by the reference he made to the changes that have taken place in the cabinet since last session. Two gentlemen who were members of the cabinet last session have been promoted to the bench of the Supreme Court. My hon. friend did not challenge the fitness of these gentlemen to occupy the high position to which they have been elevated. He could find nothing more to say than to characterize these appointments by the statement that they were due probably in some way to the action of Providence. Amongst the blessings with which Providence can favour a nation is a good government. As we all must acknowledge a good government is a greater blessing than probably even a good harvest and we know by reference to the pages of history that sometimes Providence will make use of most unworthy instruments to confer upon a people the very greatest blessings; and even under these circumstances, if Pro-

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax).

vidence has made use of ourselves, unworthy as we are, to confer a great blessing upon the people of Canada, I am sure that upon this side of the House at any rate we can stand the criticism. My hon. friend objects to the action of the government in not mentioning the fact that our commercial relations with Germany are not as good as they should be or as good as we could have hoped them. If our relations with Germany are not as good today as they were five or six years ago, if we have not now the advantage of as low a tariff in Germany as then existed, it is because the Canadian parliament, on both sides of politics, Conservatives as well as Liberals, nay, the whole Canadian nation, wanted to put an end to the very treaty which then existed and which gave us the benefit of the minimum German tariff. We were shackled by that treaty, and we rightly thought that that treaty, as long as it existed, prevented us from taking the action which we wanted to take in order to bring Canada and the motherland more closely together. Again and again the party of my hon. friend, when they were sitting on this side of the House, applied to Great Britain to have that treaty denounced and again and again their efforts failed. We were more lucky, or more successful than they were and upon our representations the British government put an end to the treaty. Now, Sir, the consequence is that the maximum tariff is imposed upon Canada. We have been making efforts by negotiations to have this removed. These negotiations have not yet matured, but I must say to my hon. friend that the commercial relations between Canada and Germany are not as he has represented them. I understand from the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) and from the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), who is looking at the figures, that instead of having a decrease we have an actual increase even under these unfavourable circumstances in our trade with Germany. Now, Sir, I may say, and I may perhaps later on during the session have something further to say upon this subject, that we have endeavoured to better and improve our trade relations with Germany and that although these efforts have not yet been crowned with success it would be premature to say that they have been abortive.

Neither have we mentioned in the speech of His Excellency, the Alaskan boundary matter, and the reason why we have omitted a reference to it is simply because it is today in the very same position it was in last year. It has made no progress since then. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden) has called attention to the fact that the correspondence which we have placed on the Table does not disclose in what respect the provisional line which we have established with the United States in Alaska, is