

terests of this country cannot prosper unless those engaged in the basic industries of this great Dominion are prosperous.

I note with pleasure that the Government proposes to remove the handicaps under which our sister Provinces by the sea have suffered; that the Prairie Provinces are to get their natural resources; and that it is proposed to hand back to British Columbia the lands in the Railway Belt. All this is to me an evidence of a sincere desire on the part of the Government to promote a further spirit of unity without which we cannot prosper as a nation.

Our railways are approaching the point where, with added population and the attendant development of business, they will no longer be a burden. Our mining areas are daily attracting greater attention, and, what is most pleasing, British capital is becoming interested. Commercial aviation is becoming an important factor in the business life of the country, and it is fortunate that the Dominion Government and the Provincial Governments are in a position to aid this development in such branches as the Post Office and the Forestry services.

There will be general interest throughout the Dominion in the promise that the matter of further trading facilities with foreign countries is to be given the attention of the Government, and that additional aid is to be considered for industrial and scientific research.

Hon. GUSTAVE LACASSE (Translation): Honourable gentlemen, traditional custom in both Houses of Parliament requires that every year, in the moving and seconding of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, the two official languages of this country should be used, and I owe to the kindness of the honourable the Liberal leader of this House the hazardous honour of performing one of these functions to-day.

It is with deep emotion, honourable gentlemen, that I rise in this illustrious Chamber for the first time, and the thought that I address not only ninety-four parliamentarians of mature age and experience, but ten millions of people, differing in opinion, class, origin, creed and interest, is not calculated to calm my fears. Being exceptionally young to share with my venerable colleagues the onerous responsibilities of membership in the Senate, and having no parliamentary training, I crave your indulgence for the few moments that I shall occupy in seconding the eloquent words addressed to you by my honourable colleague from London.

Hon. Mr. LITTLE.

My remarks, honourable gentlemen, will be confined to a few personal considerations which have been suggested to me, directly or indirectly, by the Speech from the Throne, and which I shall make as brief as possible.

There is to be noted in the first place a very interesting fact, namely, that the improvement in the economic situation in Canada is becoming more and more apparent, while most other countries, particularly those of Europe, still suffering from the general depression following the war and from the fear of new conflicts, see their finances disorganized, their industries paralyzed and their trade, both domestic and export, hampered accordingly. Our country ranks amongst the first in the world in trade per capita, and its favourable trade balance is the highest. Our Canadian dollar is the most formidable rival of the American dollar. "The trade and commerce of Canada for 1927 has been generally satisfactory," declared recently one of the most eminent business men of our metropolis, Mr. Clifford Laffoley, retiring President of the Montreal Board of Trade. "The basis of the prevailing favourable conditions," he added, "is found in the increasing value of the field crops of Canada, the substantial gain in production from the mines, and the expansion and growth of the pulp and paper industry."

So much for the present. As for the future, our country offers infinite possibilities. Marvellous resources, still untapped, lie hidden beneath our good old Canadian soil. If we are to make further strides along the path of intense development we must have a greater number of strong arms—we must increase our population. Three methods present themselves: natural increase, encouraged by the improvement in economic conditions and by the movement back to the land, which a writer affectionately calls the "great friend"; repatriation, and immigration, aided and hastened by a readjustment of transportation facilities and by an aggressive programme of settlement.

The Speech from the Throne, while containing no detailed declaration, covers all these points in a general way, attaching perhaps most importance to the development of our railway lines and emphasizing also the desirability of establishing more direct relations with certain foreign countries, particularly France and Japan.

On the whole, this comparative prosperity in our affairs and the hopes that we are justified in entertaining for the future should inspire our people with absolute confidence in the wise and prudent administration that presides at present over the destinies of Canada.