

In connection with the British market, we are sometimes told that in business matters, sentiment is of no account, and that is to say that the government have succeeded in securing the British market for our agricultural products—is altogether preposterous. To such a statement I, for one, take exception. On the contrary, I do believe in sentiment as a most potent factor in trade matters and I further say this: that to the preferential treatment of 35 per cent given by the government to the trade of England, coupled with the eloquent speeches delivered in Great Britain by the leader of the Liberal party, is due the better position we are enjoying on the markets of the mother country. To the influence exerted by the right hon. prime minister, as also to the various other measures adopted by the government, as for instance, when they so nobly responded to the appeal of the mother country in her hour of stress and difficulty, we owe the boon of having secured a market with such boundless capacity and possibilities for our agricultural products. All these circumstances, I say, have conspired in creating a favourable sentiment to Canada on the world market of Great Britain.

But, Sir, what I have just said as to what has been achieved by the government in favour of the butter and cheese industry applies with equal force to all other farm products. With a government at the head of affairs which is anxious to promote the prosperity of the farming community, small wonder indeed, that our Canadian farmers should now find plenty and comfort where formerly there was nothing but distress and suffering for them. To our manufacturing industries, to trade in general and to our artisans and labourers these remarks equally apply.

I hope the House will bear with me, if I briefly touch upon the great national work which is being carried out by the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte), in improving the St. Lawrence route. No doubt, the old administration had, in some measure, grappled with that problem, but I think I am within the truth when I say that since the hon. minister has assumed control of his department, this question has reached a new stage. He it was who brought to bear upon the solution of that great problem all the resources of civil engineering; he it was who availed himself of all the information and data bearing on the St. Lawrence route—a national highway which is the national outlet for Canadian products exported to Europe, as also for foreign traffic with the commercial metropolis of Canada. Surely, Providence, which has given us such a magnificent river, cannot be taxed with niggardliness.

What with its powerful volumes of waters, its magnificent banks, its fertile valleys, the St. Lawrence, in the views of Providence, is also the great thoroughfare for the carriage of the products of the

vast granaries of our great North-west, a country which is destined in the near future to supply food to a portion of old Europe.

In a speech which I happened to read a few years ago, of the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), the hon. gentleman, in a masterly peroration, expressed the view that Canada had perhaps reached the zenith of her prosperity, but still he was confident that better times were possibly in store for her.

Well, Sir, I may say that the most sanguine expectations of the hon. minister have been realized beyond his dreams. Now, we are not satisfied with surpluses of from two, three to four million dollars; but, for the seven months of this exercise, the surplus or the excess of ordinary revenue over our expenditure has reached the high water mark of seven million dollars, and this under a tariff that has been re-adjusted and reformed.

"Hands off the tariff" was what our friends on the other side of the House were heard to say in 1896; the tariff was then held up as something sacred, something that profane hands should not touch, and it was sacrilege to look upon it. But what they looked upon as a sort of national inheritance, was at the best but a party glory. No sacrilegious hand has touched it; but the hand that did remodel the tariff and lop off the mouldering branches was the very hand of the great financier who during so many years has wielded such a prepondering influence in the councils of his province of Nova Scotia.

Reference is made in the Speech from the Throne to the fact that His Majesty has been graciously pleased to invite the premier to be present at the ceremonies attending his coronation. What a glorious part the premier has played in London upon the occasion of the jubilee of the late regretted Queen, we all know, and we also know what a lustre his presence in the metropolis has shed on Canada. That upon the occasion of the King's coronation, he will discharge his duties as our representative with as much éclat as he did in 1897, goes without saying. Of all the men of eminence in this House or out of it, none are to be found who could speak with a more authorized voice than the premier will be able to do at the conference to be held between the leading statesmen of the several colonies. From his lofty patriotism, and his broad spirit of statesmanship, we know that he adequately represents the aspirations of our young nation.

I do not intend to occupy the time of the House at greater length, but before bringing these remarks to a close, I wish briefly to refer to the visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales, and to bear witness here to the hearty and enthusiastic reception extended to our royal visitors by the people of the province of Quebec. As we crowded together where the old ramparts of the