

wish of the government and, I venture to say, of the entire deputation, as well as of the Canadian people, to have the session end in time to permit our delegates to take part as they should in the grandiose ceremonies that will attend the coronation of our new sovereign.

The Canadian people join the British Empire in rejoicing at the happy solution of the recent constitutional crisis which ended in the accession to the throne of England of His Majesty George VI. Calm and dignified, fortunate in his family life both as a husband and as the father of charming princesses, he brings to the monarchy the security and dignity that marked the reign of the beloved king George V. Therefore, the Canadian people hasten to express to the new king their loyalty and profound respect. And the British Empire, disturbed by the uncertainty of the first days of December last, continues its march through the centuries with its customary impassibility and proud demeanour, as if nothing had happened.

Mr. Speaker, I have not sufficient knowledge of international affairs or of diplomacy to appreciate at its true value the remarkable speech delivered before the League of Nations last autumn by the right honourable the Prime Minister, but I well remember the anxiety shown in many parts of Canada regarding the attitude to be taken by the Canadian delegation at Geneva on the question of the participation or abstention of Canada in the event of war. The proud declaration of the Prime Minister on this occasion, proclaiming the complete independence of Canada in the event of war, even should England be involved, and his definite statement that Canada would never declare war without the formal consent of the federal parliament have reassured all true Canadians.

However great the admiration, the confidence and the sympathy we owe to England, the duty of every citizen of Canada, of whatever racial extraction, is to show himself a true Canadian by seeking first to protect the honour, the liberty, the peace and the future of Canada. By so doing, we will not be abandoning British ideals nor prejudicing the cause of England. And the manner in which our prime minister cleared up the question of Canada's sovereignty, to the satisfaction of all Canadians worthy of the name, revealed him as an enlightened leader and a statesman of the first rank.

Among all the nations of the world, Canada has made the greatest economic progress during the last twelve months. Its volume of trade has passed the billion dollar mark for the first time since 1929, and Canada holds

fourth place among the exporting countries of the world. With the exception of the drought areas, every part of Canada shows an improved situation. Economists and financial commentators and especially the presidents of our banking institutions, in their annual reports, are practically unanimous in stating that this rapid improvement is largely due to the wise policies of the present government, which advocates moderate tariffs in order to promote trade with all the nations of the world. The last commercial agreement concluded with the United States has given most excellent results and is held largely responsible for the enormous business improvement registered in 1936, the figures of which are known to all. These results demonstrate once more the superiority of the tariff policies of the Liberal party and the ill effects of the policies of extreme protection that have always characterized Conservative administrations in Canada as well as in other countries.

In his address, delivered last week, to the shareholders of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, Sir John Aird made some observations that are of interest to this house. He said: "I urge world-wide tariff revision" and he added: "This country should be thankful for a partial return to less restricted trade and exchange policies. I shall not qualify my former expressions against trade restrictions because of their depressing effect upon business. But now I urge world-wide tariff revision for two other reasons, namely, to protect the consuming masses against possible sharp increases in living costs, and to prevent the large governmental expenditures still necessary for public relief from mounting so high as to nullify efforts to achieve budgetary balance."

No one, I venture to say, will accuse Sir John Aird of being a pillar of the Liberal party or of being unduly inclined to praise the present administration.

The economic prosperity of Canada fundamentally depends upon the extent of our foreign trade. With a population of only ten million spread over half a continent, we are incapable of absorbing, ourselves alone, all our natural products and the products of our manufactures. We need outside markets, especially in the United States, who are our natural customers. High tariff barriers tend to stifle our commercial expansion. Every page of the commercial history of America shows that every excessive raise in the tariff, on either side of the international boundary, has caused us economic embarrassment and often disaster. Striking examples of this are found in the Fordney-McCumber and Hawley-Smoot tariffs, as well as the economic nationalism practised by the last administra-