

velopment of those lands will not interfere with the development of other lands, while their development will add tremendously to the business of the country at large. Some exception may be taken to what has been called a monopoly to the railway contractors in the provision that for five years no other railway shall be built into that country. Now, it seems to me, in reading over that contract, that the Government have simply made provision that no railway into that country will be bonused or chartered by this Parliament for the next five years if it comes from any part of the American territory. We know that a great many companies are applying for railway charters for railroads intended to run into the country from the Pacific coast over American territory; and the American Government, by means of customs duties, would have power to control the business of such railways. I do not believe that this Government or this Parliament would be justified under any circumstances in bonusing a railway running into that country with an outlet in American territory. Therefore, I say that it was of great importance that the Government should see to it that any railway assisted by them should pass over Canadian territory. The navigation of the Stikine River is free: the territory over which the railway will run from Glenora to Teslin Lake is Canadian; and from Teslin Lake to Dawson City, I understand, there will be unbroken navigation. So that when this railway is built we shall have a means of access into that country which will redound greatly to the trade and credit of Canada. Allow me further to say this, that to ask any contractor to make a deposit of \$250,000 as security that the contract shall be completed within the time specified, when the contractors themselves are not receiving any money for the work is, I think, something unprecedented in the history of railway construction in Canada; and from the character of the contractors, I am inclined to think that that railway will be completed within the time. If that is done, it will be one of the greatest feats ever accomplished in this country, and will make the people of other countries feel that after all, when action or work of any kind is required, Canada can do her share, and her Government can be relied upon to act promptly. Another important feature of this contract is that the Government reserve alternate blocks of land, so that when the company engage in prospecting or development work, this country will get the benefit of it without any cost to itself; so that whenever the company add value to their own lands, they will add value to the Government lands, which will repay this country to a great extent. In that way I believe the country will reap more benefit than it would have done if the Government had proceeded to develop these lands itself.

Reference is also made in the Speech from the Throne to the bountiful harvest and to the increase in the trade of the country. In this congratulation I think we can all most heartily join. We all know that a bountiful harvest is necessary to make the country prosper and to increase the business of our manufacturers and merchants: and we had a very satisfactory harvest last year.

But there is another matter which, although not alluded to in the Speech, I desire to refer to very briefly, as having contributed to the material advancement and business of this country, and that is the manner in which the Government have dealt with our fiscal policy. I am sure, Mr. Speaker, this House will agree with me when I say that business cannot be done, business cannot be developed and expanded, unless there is confidence throughout the land, and I maintain that this Parliament, by its action last session in the revision of the tariff, gave the business people of this country a confidence which they did not possess to the same extent before. There was an impression among a certain class that the fiscal policy of the Liberal party was not as sound as it ought to be.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. BERTRAM. But now that it is complete—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh! Oh!

Mr. BERTRAM. There was an impression, I do not deny it, in the minds of some business people and manufacturers that the fiscal policy of the Liberal party could not be relied upon to the same extent as the fiscal policy of the Conservative party. I admit that—but a change has since come over those men. The manufacturers and the business men of this country now realize, more than they ever did before, that this Government, that the Liberal party, mean no harm whatever to the business interests of the country. That feeling of confidence has permeated the whole land, and helped to create new channels of trade, new business and new developments, and therefore I say that the fiscal policy of this Government has been of great benefit to the Dominion as a whole.

It is not my intention to go at any length into that particular question, but still I would like to set myself right, and I wish to say that while I do not pretend to be able to agree in every respect with the Government, or that every member of the Government will be able to agree with me in everything I say, I shall none the less give it a generous and an ardent support. It does not necessarily follow that I am called upon to endorse everything that comes from it—for I do not suppose it claims infallibility—but I have no hesitation in endorsing the fiscal policy of this Government. I go further than that, I say that the