

My right hon. friend touched also on the subject of immigration and seemed to complain because the government made further mention of its immigration policy in the Speech from the Throne. He dwelt particularly on the absence of any large number of immigrants during the past year. If he had reflected for a moment he would have realized that what he was saying was in the nature of a criticism of his own administration, because, as every hon. member must know, the immigration of one year is largely the result of preparations that have been made for it in the year preceding. You sow fall wheat one year and you reap the harvest in the year following; it is precisely the same with immigration. The natural time for the influx of immigrants is the early part of the year; immigrants do not come to the country in any numbers in the latter part of the year. They come as the result of the preparations that have been made and what by way of inducing them to come has been accomplished in the year preceding. My right hon. friend was in office in 1921 but was busy with the general elections throughout the fall of that year. From August until December, when the immigration representatives of the government should have been active in Great Britain, in the United States, and wherever suitable immigrants could have been found, he and his colleagues were paying little or no attention to their departments; were allowing them, in fact largely, to look after themselves. My right hon. friend and his Minister of Immigration were busily engaged at the time in vainly trying to win the confidence of the electors at the polls; that is the reason why we have had so little in the way of immigration during the past year. But the pledge that was given in last year's Speech from the Throne has been fulfilled. Efforts were made by the administration as soon as it took office to improve conditions. Those efforts are being and will continue to be extended, and my right hon. friend's desire to see a return of the flow of immigration to this country will probably be fulfilled before very long.

In regard to the question of the natural resources, to which my right hon. friend also alluded, I would draw his attention to the fact that it is not unusual to find that some questions take a little longer to solve than others. The question of the return to the provinces of western Canada of their natural resources is one with which previous governments have grappled over a long period of years. Some progress, I think, has been made in the matter. Conferences have

been held. It is quite true that the results have not been all that we had hoped for. We might have made a settlement had we been prepared to accept the terms that the western provinces proposed. But we felt that there were considerations affecting the Dominion as a whole of which account had to be taken, and we were not prepared to go the lengths that the western provinces wished us to go in the matter of returning to them the control of their natural resources. However, I think the discussions we have had have brought the western provinces and the federal government a little closer together on this issue, and we may hope as the result of further conferences to arrive at a satisfactory solution of the problem.

With the other subjects to which my right hon. friend referred—the tariff and financial matters—I shall not deal at present. I understand there is a desire on the part of hon. members that the House should adjourn at six o'clock, and that being the case I shall endeavour to bring my remarks to a close by that time. Perhaps I should touch more particularly upon a subject to which my right hon. friend made only a passing reference, namely, the despatches which have recently passed between the British government and ourselves respecting the crisis in the Near East.

My right hon. friend says he expects and hopes the government will bring down all the correspondence or communications which have passed between the British government and the Canadian government. Let me say that the government has all along been hoping that it would be possible to bring all the correspondence down. The moment the despatch of September 15 was received here, I made it quite plain in a communication to the British government that in all probability parliament would desire to see the correspondence that might be passing between the British government and ourselves. I have to inform my right hon. friend that we repeatedly asked the British government if we might be at liberty to bring down the correspondence. The British government has in the most clear and emphatic way indicated its wish that the correspondence should not be laid before parliament. However, the British government has stated that no exception can be taken on its part to a general statement being made by myself as to what has passed between us in the matter of correspondence, and I propose to give to the House, as clearly and as fully as I can, an exact statement of what has taken place.

First of all, may I say just a word in regard to the circumstances under which the first