

hon. gentleman's position on so important and so august an occasion. I read with some astonishment a telegram from London, published a few days ago in the press here, referring to the fact that Canada was being penalized by having only one representative on this great and important occasion, while Australasia will be represented by no less than five Premiers, and the correspondent felt it was necessary that some suggestion should be offered to Her Majesty's Government in order to overcome that great disparity. I can only say that the person who committed himself to such an opinion knows very little of the position that Canada occupies in the estimation of the Empire. Sir, when Canada became a confederation, a great Dominion, she spoke with authority. She was represented at the heart of the Empire, before the Imperial Government, by a High Commissioner, who was charged with the duty of representing not a province, but the whole of this great Confederation, and I am happy to be able to testify that not only in regard to my predecessor but in regard to the gentleman who has succeeded me in that high office, the High Commissioner has on every occasion obtained the hearty support and co-operation of every one of the representatives in London of the autonomous colonies, which embrace all the colonies of Australasia and South Africa, and that all those representatives fully recognize that the Dominion of Canada is entitled to that precedence which gives its representative the position of leader of the colonial representatives in London. So on this occasion, Sir, although there might be, and I should have been very glad if there could be a representative from every one of the Australian and South African Colonies, the hon. First Minister would find that he would be associated with a body of gentlemen one and all of whom would recognize the precedence that Canada occupies in consequence of her advanced position as a Dominion. There is no ground for apprehension on the part of any person, that we will not be well, worthily and efficiently represented on that great occasion. This Diamond Jubilee is unique in itself. There has been no occasion in the world's history perhaps on which such a celebration has taken place at all corresponding in magnitude to this. It has been the good fortune of this great Empire that Her Majesty the Queen has throughout a longer period than any other ruler in the history of any other country filled the high position of Sovereign of the British Empire. Not only is that the case, but Her Majesty has the satisfaction of having witnessed during that long period a development in Great Britain itself and throughout the Empire that is unparalleled in the history of the world. Great and striking have been the advances made within the United Kingdom itself since Her Majesty ascended the Throne. When I remind hon. gentlemen op-

Sir CHARLES TUPPER.

posite that 56 years ago, when I had the pleasure of visiting Great Britain for the first time, there was only a horse railway six miles in length in Scotland and a railway running from Liverpool to Manchester in England, and ask them to contrast that situation as regards railway operations with the present position in that country, they will grasp in a moment the tremendous and gigantic advances made in different directions relating to the progress, prosperity and grandeur of the United Kingdom. But great as has been the progress of the United Kingdom, the progress of the colonies has been still greater. Sixty years ago, at the time Her Majesty ascended the Throne, Australia was a terra incognita, a small portion of it only was practically known, and it was a penal settlement, and the site of the great city of Melbourne was occupied at that period by camps of aborigines, and in fact the creation of Australia and New Zealand as great colonies has taken place since Her Majesty ascended the Throne. This has been a revelation to the world. The same remark will apply to South Africa. I need not refer to the satisfactory progress made by the Dominion of Canada, or do more than mention the progress made by India and the extension of that vast Empire, but I desired briefly to call attention to the enormous progress made throughout the Empire during the benign reign of Her Majesty. It has not only been the good fortune of Her Majesty the Queen to witness this enormous development of the Empire under her sway, but it has been the greater good fortune of the people dwelling in every portion of this great Empire to recognize in Her Majesty a Sovereign of whom everyone is justly proud. It has been the good fortune of every subject of Her Majesty even in the most remote portions of the Empire to recognize that the Queen, whether as a woman, wife or sovereign, in fact in every relation of life, possessed all those great charms which endear her to the hearts of every one of her subjects. Sir, I am glad to know that Canada is not only to be represented by the Prime Minister at the Diamond Jubilee, but I also deem it to be a most happy suggestion on the part of the Imperial Government to signalize this great and important event by bringing together from the remote portions of the Empire the Premiers of the great autonomous colonies, and at the same time secure a suitable representation of the militia and military forces of Canada and the other colonies. I believe, Sir, that these matters may by some be regarded from an economical point of view as perhaps attended with some little expenditure and outlay; but I am in a position to say from knowledge gained by many years, residence in England that any expenditure connected with a display of that kind is utterly insignificant compared with the