

re-establish our railways in such a way as to eliminate the deficits which for years have been increasing our public debt. Canadian products ought to be shipped by Canadian rather than foreign routes. Goods shipped across the Atlantic from Great Britain or the continent of Europe, and intended for importation into Canada, should be carried to their destination on Canadian lines. Recently one-half or two-thirds of the grain shipments from Port Arthur across the Great Lakes have gone to American ports. I would remind the people of Canada that the Transcontinental from Winnipeg to Quebec was built in accordance with twentieth-century knowledge, and offers the shortest and cheapest possible route to the seaport of Quebec in the summer months, and enables the Government to carry the products of the West from Quebec to St. John and Halifax in the winter time at a minimum of additional cost. If all Canadian shipments are forwarded by our Canadian railways we may be certain that our railway systems will soon be able to meet the cost of operation and maintenance.

Another important item in the Speech from the Throne announces to the Canadian people that commercial treaties, or understandings with regard to treaties of reciprocity, have recently been made with France and Italy by our Canadian delegates, Hon. Mr. Fielding and Hon. Mr. Lapointe. Commercial treaties are certainly the most economical and most praiseworthy sort of relationship that can exist between nations. May I remind you, honourable gentlemen, that Napoléon Bonaparte, whose genius as an economist equalled his military genius, regarded commercial treaties as a sure means of establishing harmony between nations and promoting national prosperity. In what I may term his spare moments between the wars in which he was constantly engaged he liked to make commercial treaties with the different nations of Europe which he favoured, the only nation with which he refused to enter into treaty relations being the British, the one to which he had an aversion.

91 Last year it was my privilege to compliment the honourable the Minister of Finance of Canada for having, on taking over his Department, made an offer to the United States of reciprocity with Canada. The offer was refused, it is true, but his action remains as an example to the United States, and to other countries as well, and we can already see that the United States regrets having erected insurmountable barriers to trade between Canada and itself.

Hon. Mr. TURGEON.

The nations of the world must expect to take a new course if they would secure happiness and prosperity. The old Roman adage, "Si vis pacem para bellum," has been proven false. The Roman Empire itself fell beneath the weight of militarism in the first centuries of the Christian era. After nineteen centuries of Christian civilization, Germany, by her stupendous preparations for war, attempted to overthrow and dominate the world; but when faced by those nations that had been preparing for peace, Germany too was at once dismantled, and carried down with her in her ruin nothing but the maledictions of the world. These commercial treaties are among the greatest incentives to harmony among nations.

The Speech from the Throne refers also to the question of immigration. Immigration is necessary for Canada. It is necessary in quantity, but still more in quality, and therefore great care is required. It is averred that Canada, in the last twenty years, has lost more population than it has gained by immigration. We must not make vain promises, which inspire wrong ideas in the mind of the immigrant. We must make known to him our resources, but must also let him understand that it is only by work, energy and thrift that he can succeed. I like the immigrant who comes to us from France, Belgium, Scandinavia, or the British Isles, and am ready to do all possible to assist him towards prosperity and happiness; but I hold dearer the immigrant from the Canadian cradle. He has a special claim upon our solicitude, and we must keep him beneath his native sky, close to his father and mother, the imitation of whose virtues will prove his fitness for Canadian citizenship. I am pleased to learn from the words of the Minister of Immigration, Hon. Charles Stewart, that he intends to take up the matter of repatriating Canadians now in the United States. That is certainly a fine work. It will not cost the country more to bring back the 10,000 or 20,000 Canadians from the United States than to bring the same number of foreigners to this country. I hope that the Government will give effect to the wishes of the Minister of Immigration.

I do not wish, honourable gentlemen, to take up your attention further. I have already spoken long enough, and I would not weary you dignitaries of Canada the first time that I have the honour of speaking in these noble precincts. However, I deem it my duty before taking my seat to express my sincere hope for the success of the League of Nations, the chief aim of which is to abolish the military spirit among European countries. I