

travel over some of the grounds traversed by my right hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper)—and he went over the ground very fully—to make some points, even on the same line, as strongly as I can, in the faint hope that possibly some one of my right hon. friend's colleagues, seeing the utter insufficiency of the reply of their leader, may essay to do something worthy of the occasion. Now, with reference to the Speech from the Throne, upon which this debate is proceeding, we may sum up the first part of it as being an assertion with regard to the political importance, the material progress and the good credit that Canada enjoys to-day. Well, that political importance and that material progress and that good credit, whatever it may be, gentlemen on this side most heartily appreciate and are thankful for. But to say that certain things exist is one thing, and to say that they exist because the party opposite is in power and because my right hon. friend leads that party, is quite another thing. Who made it possible that Canada should have this distinguished political importance which she enjoys in the British world to-day, this material progress and this good credit? I think all will agree with me that three conditions are necessary, and these do not spring up in a day or grow up in a night. These are stable political conditions, good transport facilities, and a varied industrial development. These three conditions are of steady, solid and long growth—not of the mushroom type which spring up in a single night—and we have to clearly and honestly see the difference between the existence of the fact itself and the attributing that existence to certain causes. My hon. friend may boast of these three attributes which Canada possesses, and in boasting of them do honour to himself and his country, but when he seeks to make it apparent that these are in any way the results of the action and policy of his Government, then he makes a claim which we are perfectly justified in discussing. Stable political conditions are necessary, every one will admit. But what would have been the political condition of the Dominion if a certain agitation, begun in a certain portion of the Dominion, carried on by a certain gentleman who to-day occupies the position of Finance Minister (Mr. Fielding) had been successful? We cannot forget—it was not more than fourteen years ago—when a gentleman by the name of Fielding, a resident at that time in the province of Nova Scotia, entered upon a propaganda which had for its purpose the taking of Nova Scotia, and if possible New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island out from this confederation and the formation of a union amongst themselves of these provinces. It is fortunate for us that the good sense and long-headedness of the people of New Brunswick and Prince Edward

Island did not allow them to go the length of even sympathizing with the views of the hon. gentleman, and it speaks well for that caution of the hon. gentleman, which is, perhaps, to a large extent, his best characteristic, that when he saw it was hardly possible to accomplish his purpose, he let the agitation die out and it has never been heard from since.

But if Mr. Fielding, the Finance Minister of to-day, had been able to work out his sweet will, this Dominion would not be what it is to-day, and these stable conditions, which contribute so much to our political importance and good credit, would not exist.

Memory takes me back also to the agitation, not many years old, participated in by my right hon. friend and his colleagues to his left and his right, when the Liberal party bowed before Mr. Erastus Wiman and his commercial union scheme with the United States, and which they carried on with might and main, even after the defection of their strongest man and old-time leader (Mr. Blake), who characterized it as likely to dis sever the good relations which heretofore existed between Canada and the mother country and lead to intimate political connection with the United States. The good, hard common-sense of the electorate of Canada balked the attempt, but if it had not been balked, if these hon. gentlemen opposite had been successful, where would be now the stable conditions which gives political importance and good credit to Canada in the Jubilee year of Her Majesty?

Sir, with reference to good transport facilities, who does not know that one of the best indications of Canada's credit in the old world is the quotations of Canadian Pacific Railway stocks. It is almost, if not really, as good as the quotations of Canada's Government securities, and why? The quotations of Canadian Pacific Railway stocks is the barometer of the commercial credit and expansion of this country, and they go up as monied men and business men in commercial centres read into them the progress and expansion of the trade and traffic of this country. Where was the Liberal party, under the leadership of my right hon. friend and his predecessors, when the fate of the Canadian Pacific Railway was hanging in the balance, waiting upon the vote of this Parliament, when it was fighting for its existence, and when the Dominion of Canada felt through and through that as fortune went on, that occasion, so would the weal or the disaster of the country and of the whole Canadian people.

It had at that time assumed such an importance, was of such a nature, that if it had failed, it would have been a failure of Canada, and would have been so regarded in the different countries of the world. When the battle was fought for industrial