

of Lansdowne, is chairman. Mr. Mitchell, was very active and influential in urging construction of the bridge and in a very large measure contributed to the undertaking. In company with others he and his committee are now interested in the area about Gananoque, as far west as Kingston and as far east as Brockville, as to the possibilities offered for the establishment of a park.

I take this opportunity to impress upon the government, and particularly upon the Minister of Mines and Resources, under whose jurisdiction a park would come, and the Minister of Labour, who represents that part of the province, the desirability of taking some action towards acquiring land for the establishment of the park. If action is not taken in the near future values will be created and buildings of an undesirable type, from a scenic standpoint, will be constructed, with the result that to some extent at least the natural beauty will be destroyed. Values will be created which do not now exist, and, if action is not taken, in the end the government will be forced to pay a much larger sum to acquire land which, in the interests of the people of Canada, should be acquired for park purposes.

Let me urge upon the government and particularly upon the responsible ministers the necessity for action at this session; otherwise it will be too late and the costs will be very much increased. I urge the point not from any narrow local viewpoint or only from the standpoint of the constituency, but for the purpose of promoting tourist traffic.

The proposed visit of their majesties recalls the coronation of 1937. The impression made upon those who were privileged to attend, and upon the world at large, was very striking and beneficial. We were convinced that we were members of one family, one partnership, and we were reminded of the importance and the value of that association. We continue to appreciate all these advantages, but I fear that sometimes we shrink from sharing the responsibilities that relationship involves. We emphasize our rights, privileges and advantages, and we minimize our duties and responsibilities. We must be prepared to share responsibilities as well as advantages.

The banquet in Westminster Hall, which was attended by the Prime Minister, the Minister of Justice, other representatives of Canada at the empire conference and the members of the delegation of the Empire Parliamentary Association, was an interesting and historic occasion. The king responded in person to the toast to the health of his

majesty. I believe that that was the first time that anything of that kind occurred. The thanks of those present were expressed eloquently and appropriately by the speaker of the House of Commons of Great Britain and by you, Mr. Speaker, representing the overseas delegates. We were all very proud and happy on that occasion, which was one of deep significance. Following the enactment of the statute of Westminster the relationship of Canada to the crown became a little different from what it had been before. The action of his majesty on that occasion showed an appreciation of that change and a disposition on his part to come close to the representatives of his people, whether they resided in a dominion or in a colony.

The visit of their majesties to Canada is a further manifestation of that disposition toward their subjects. The conclusion to be drawn from it is that the throne is not aloof or afar off, that it is not an institution above and apart from the people; it is set up in the midst of the peoples of the empire. We have an indication of their majesties' sympathies and desire to cooperate and live in the bonds of deepest affection and sympathy with their subjects throughout the empire. In the British commonwealth of nations the king reigns, but the people rule. We have a splendid manifestation of those democratic principles which we value so highly. I know that on the occasion of this visit the people of Canada will express their appreciation to the fullest extent. It is to be regretted that the visit of their majesties is to be so short, and that many people will not be able to see them. Their visit to the United States also has significance. It will tend to create a greater measure of understanding between the two democracies and a clearer appreciation of their common objectives and purposes.

The speech from the throne refers to the trade agreement recently negotiated between Canada and the United States. This agreement will be discussed fully and in detail at the proper time when the resolution and the bill are before us. The Prime Minister referred to the sequence of events leading up to the negotiation of this treaty. He did not go back very far. As I recall it, he went back only to 1935, when the previous trade agreement between Canada and the United States was negotiated. I hope that during the debate on the resolution and the bill we will have an opportunity of going back farther than 1935. It would be very interesting indeed if we had the time to go back to 1896 and trace the development of trade from that time on.