

and in respect of which a large delegation is about to visit Ottawa, I understand, to present their views to the government. The Tariff Commission is another important matter. I have had the pleasure of taking part in all the tariff fights which have been waged in Canada since 1878, and it has always seemed to me that it is a very rough and ready method of settling a very delicate piece of business like the establishment of a tariff, by making it the main subject of contention in a political contest which takes place in this country every time the great parties go in to the arena to struggle for supremacy. A tariff commission should be composed of men versed in business affairs, who know what a tariff is, who know what it should be, what its purpose is, men who have ample knowledge of the various businesses and industries of the country, and some realizing sense of the difficulty of making a tariff or changing a tariff without interfering with or jeopardizing or perhaps destroying certain industries. I believe that those who realize what that means will be delighted to discover that a tariff commission is to be entrusted with the work of preparing our tariffs in the future. The outcry of depressed industry here or there, or the demands of certain localities resting on certain grievances, by their energy, might force the government into making concessions, disastrous in their consequences. The tariff should be treated as a scientific instrument intended to give the country as much revenue as possible with as little injury to the people as possible, and as little as possible of that revenue should be diverted from its proper goal, the treasury of the country, and private interests should not be allowed to get undue advantage from the changing or modification of our tariff. It is a work to which expert trained minds with adequate knowledge should be called and when it is taken up and dealt with in that way, I believe we may hope to have a fairly satisfactory tariff. Possibly such a thing as perfect tariff cannot be made. It will be impossible to make it satisfactory to all; but we should be able to approach such a goal by using the services of experts not of parties in politics. It should not be a subject of party

strife, but purely a business proposition, and an endeavour to adjust the schedules so as to give to the country the largest revenue with the least inconvenience. I shall not deal with the other matters referred to in the address. My hon. friend will no doubt take them up.

Hon. Mr. TAYLOR—I realize the great honour that has been delegated to me in having been selected to second the address in reply to the speech from the Throne. Having so recently been called to the Senate after having served my constituents for 29 years in the popular Chamber, I appreciate the honour all the more, and will endeavour in the few remarks that I propose to make to avoid as much as possible anything of a partisan character.

We in Canada are favoured with responsible government; we are pardonably proud of our British laws and British institutions. His Majesty the King, represented in Canada by the Governor General, is one of the ties that binds us to the motherland. We have been singularly favoured by the governors who have presided over the destiny of our young country in years gone by and now we still have greater reason to feel grateful in having sent to us one of the royal family in the person of His Royal Highness, the Duke of Connaught. We trust his stay with us during his tenure of office may prove as pleasant and profitable to himself and his royal consort, the Duchess of Connaught, as undoubtedly it will prove to us. His immediate predecessor, Earl Grey, by visiting all portions of the Dominion, became acquainted with the people of Canada, interested himself in their daily lives, and secured a knowledge of the country that aided him materially in the discharge of his high and important duties. His example will no doubt be followed by His Royal Highness, our present Governor General and we hope with a like result.

Canada has for several years been blessed by Divine Providence in providing us with a succession of good crops that has resulted in producing prosperous times, and we are glad to know that the present year has been no exception and all classes of our people have participated in the benefits arising therefrom.