

position, why should he not have it? I am glad, Sir, to say that in the present Premier of Canada, the province of Quebec is represented by one of her most gifted sons. Differing from him as I do on almost every political issue that has come before the House, I am yet prepared to say here, as I have stated on every occasion and before different audiences, that I am proud as a French Canadian to see Canada represented by a French Canadian Premier. But, Sir, that is not enough for me. Beside the fact of his talents, beside the fact of his origin, beside the fact of his being a man who is fully capable of representing us in every path of life, I want from him a policy that will help on our country. I want him to be equal to the long list of patriots who have contributed towards the progress and the building up of this country. I want him to come forward with measures which will develop our country. If he should do this, it will be a glorious day for the French Canadian race to be able to say that under a French Canadian Premier the country had continued to develop and improve. But, Sir, how fatal it would be to us if, on the contrary, history will have to record that under the reign of a French Canadian Premier the progress of Canada was retarded, and that we did not realize from him the great expectations that we had hoped for.

Mr. LISTER. Don't be afraid, you won't have to say that at all.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I am quite prepared to take the opinion of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Lister) on that subject, and it is because I am prepared to take his opinion that I should like to tell him what will satisfy me in the shape of a policy that will develop the country, so that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Lister), with his great influence over his leader, may induce the Premier to adopt it. I promise to tender whatever help I may be able to give to the hon. gentleman in accomplishing the end which I desire. For instance, Sir, because the Premier comes from the province of Quebec, I would not, as a Canadian, consent to see the great waterways of Canada handed over to a foreign country. I would not consent, as a Canadian, to allow the Americans, rich and powerful as they are, to come over here and pay a proportion of the cost of our public works. I think the national pride of Canada would be hurt by that, and I believe that the future of Canada would be jeopardized if we permitted such a transaction. Let us take our time if need be. If we can develop these great natural waterways which we have inherited, so as to transfer our produce through the great lakes to Liverpool, let us do it, and if need be let us take our time in doing it. If we are not rich enough, and if our population is too small to improve these waterways in a few years, let us take more time, but do not let us divide the bill of expenses between the

Americans and ourselves. Sir, how is it possible that any public man in Canada could dream of sharing the fisheries—our greatest heritage—with any nation of the earth, except upon the condition of receiving full compensation for the great privilege accorded. Instead of such a policy as that, let us have a national policy. I am for friendship and amity with the United States. I admire the people of that country. I have many friends who live in the United States, and frequently it is my great pleasure to enjoy their hospitality, to admire their great national wealth, and to see the wonderful development of their industries; developed under a protective policy similar to the policy which the Conservative party has applied to Canada. But, Sir, I hope never shall we hear in the precincts of this Chamber, or outside either, a Canadian who would advocate the handing over of our fisheries or the sharing of our fisheries, with any other nation unless we get full value for that great privilege.

In that Speech, I should have liked also to see some announcement as to the intentions of this Government with reference to the question of a fast Atlantic service, the measure for which the late Government, the Government of Sir Mackenzie Bowell and the Government of my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition, fought so long and so successfully—a measure in regard to which they succeeded in inducing the Imperial Government to share the views of the Canadian Government, so far as to agree to contribute a very large subsidy from the Imperial treasury to help to establish that great service. I would like to hear the opinion of my hon. friend from Quebec West (Mr. Dobell) on that important question, because I have heard it rumoured that he advocates a line of seventeen knots. We should have been informed in the Speech from the Throne what the policy of the Government is on that very important question. I quite understand that it would be unreasonable for us to ask the hon. gentlemen who have just come into office to lay down a programme so detailed as to be final and complete. I quite understand that even if that information were given to us, we on this side of the House ought not to delay the session in order to take up so important a measure; but we should know something about the policy of the Government in regard to it, so that Parliament would be in a position to give it full consideration in another session. But nothing is said in regard to it, and are we to run the risk of losing that Imperial subsidy which possibly may never be offered to us again. My hon. friend who leads the Opposition had a great deal to do with that important question when in England. It was due in great part to his energy if he succeeded in getting that Imperial subsidy. But are the British Government going to give a subsidy for a seventeen-knot line? Never. Why should