

ignorance of the present state of prosperity of Canada, and no one is ignorant of it but the man who wilfully closes his eyes to the light. That prosperity is so manifest from the Atlantic to the Pacific that no man in his sober senses would dare deny it.

We are promised new legislation on various matters, and among other measures which will be brought down is one for the better supervision of the export trade in food products. The hon. member for South Wellington (Mr. Guthrie) has shown with his wonted eloquence that there was room for improvement in that direction.

The speech from the Throne further alludes to the post office, and here I may say that in the county which I represent, the mail service has undergone substantial improvements, as it has, no doubt, in all other parts of the country.

No man, I am sure, will begrudge the hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) the praise he is entitled to for the creditable way in which he has administered his department these four years past.

The present position of Canada is excellent. Since the right hon. Prime Minister and his colleagues have been called to the head of affairs, truly astonishing results have been achieved. In the first place among those achievements let me mention religious peace and harmony restored to the country. We have undertaken the task of harmonizing the different classes and nationalities in this country, and of fostering those common sentiments and aspirations which go to the building of a great nation, and we have succeeded therein. Within the last five years, our trade has increased by leaps and bounds; and the growth of affairs has been simply phenomenal, and to-day Canada stands in the eyes of the world, in the front rank. If we only go on progressing at the same rate for the next twenty-five years, those among us who will then be spared will witness a wonderful growth of the country. We are on the high road of prosperity and let us hope that nothing will impede our course.

I now wish to conclude my remarks in the language of the majority of this House. As I have the honour of representing here a constituency one-third of whose electors are English-speaking, I think it proper to wind-up my speech in English, so as to be understood by the majority of this House.

Mr. Speaker, representing as I do the county of Bonaventure, one-third of whose population is English-speaking, I think it fit and proper to conclude my remarks in the language of the majority of the hon. members of this House. I was desirous to say a few words in the English language, but I was also anxious to keep up the tradition that has prevailed in this House, and therefore, I began my remarks in the French language. We have met, Sir, under exceptional circumstances. The death of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, the accession

Mr. MARCIL (Bonaventure).

of her son, and the beginning of a new reign with the beginning of a new century, synchronising with the opening of a new parliament—all these things, Sir, are of a nature to break the routine of ordinary openings of parliament. I am glad to be able to declare on the floor of this House that in no part of this Dominion was there more heartfelt sorrow, more genuine grief, felt at the death of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, than among the French-speaking people of the province of Quebec. And, Sir, the reason is plain. The French Canadians of the province of Quebec and their fathers saw realized under the reign of Her Majesty and put into execution the treaty which had been sealed by the blood of heroes upon the Plains of Abraham. It was under the reign of Her Majesty the Queen that constitutional government was secured to Canada; it was under her reign that constitutional government was developed, that confederation was brought about, and that justice was extended to all classes and to all nationalities. French Canadians are among the first to honour her memory, and to be grateful to her for having been to some extent instrumental in bringing about the happy condition of things which now exists in this country.

Sir, I represent a county where, I believe, the race problem has been solved. This may seem somewhat extraordinary to some of the hon. members of this House. The county of Bonaventure adjoins the province of New Brunswick; it is peopled by Acadians, by descendants of the United Empire Loyalists, by Irishmen, Scotchmen and Frenchmen. The majority of the people speak both languages. I have gone through three election campaigns in that county, and I never heard the race cry raised in any shape or form. One of my predecessors in the representation of that county, and one who will be remembered by some of the older members of this House, was the late lamented Mr. Fauvel, a French Huguenot, who represented the county of Bonaventure by the almost unanimous will of the people of all classes and of all nationalities. They have elected me, a French Canadian, to the House of Commons, and they have sent an English-speaking citizen to the legislature in Quebec. Those, Sir, are conditions which I should like to see prevail throughout this Dominion. We are now upon the threshold of a new century. If I were to venture to address a word of counsel to the present generation of Canadians who have taken no part in the strife and discord of former times, and who, I know, have no other desire but to see this country happy and prosperous, I would ask them, Mr. Speaker, to pledge themselves now, at the beginning of this parliament, to do their utmost to bring about good-will and a better feeling among all classes of our people. I would like, Mr. Speaker, to appeal to every friend of Bri-