

always prevailed in the family circle when we were told of the Royal Family, and what the King and Queen and the members of the Royal Family meant to us. I well recall the delight and pride in my own home, when I was a very small boy, over the honour of my father and mother being entertained at a dinner in Newfoundland with the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, who were later to become Their Majesties King George V and Queen Mary. The only phase of it that I can really remember is my mother's recounting of the conversation between herself and the Duchess about the mutual feeling they shared with regard to their respective children. That is my outstanding recollection of that memorable event. So it is, honourable senators, to this day, and we have grown into a deep regard and affection for the Royal Family largely because, with all the stress and strain of Court and official life, they maintain the quality of greatest mutual appeal, that is, a happy and devoted family life.

Honourable senators, I am sure it is a matter of general satisfaction that the Speech from the Throne reveals that a concentrated effort will be made toward greater development of Commonwealth trade. With that, closer Commonwealth relations of a general character should naturally follow. At this time, with the Commonwealth being constantly enlarged by British colonies in all parts of the world growing into self-governing dominions, such association becomes all the more valuable to us. It is an outstanding feature of world progress that self-government is developing rapidly, and particularly in areas where roots of British colonial government were deeply planted. While that development certainly has not come along by a straight and direct road, it is nevertheless a remarkable tribute to the British colonial system that the foundation for self-government has been well laid. I have always felt that the people who most freely use the word "colonialism" in a condemnatory manner are those who know the least about what is going on outside of their own villages and backyards. That, of course, is a natural view for me to have, being a resident of Newfoundland, and sharing with all other Newfoundlanders the pride we have in our country, which used to be Britain's oldest colony. It is just over a hundred years ago that Newfoundland obtained self-government, and so that movement has gone on. Self-government did not mean any weakening, but rather the strengthening, of the ties with the Old Country. It helped develop with Great Britain and other members of Empire and Commonwealth broader and more useful associations.

The world needs now, more than ever before, close relationships such as are found in the Commonwealth; it also needs the broader concepts of responsibility, one towards the other, for the development of mutual interests that are found there. Having said that—and I mean it thoroughly—I would say further that we must not allow ourselves to be blinded by idealisms or choked by platitudes. The difficulties of growing together are very real. Self interest will always be accepted as a first law of life. It is in the gradual, and very gradual reconciling of self interest with mutual interest, and thus broadening our points of view, that the most beneficial progress can be made.

Honourable senators, I should like to take this opportunity to refer to a most interesting gathering that I was privileged to attend a short time ago, under the auspices of Mount Allison University, at Sackville, New Brunswick. Under the sponsorship of Dr. Ross Flemington, the President, and other officials of that university, a three-day Canada-West India conference was held. This followed a similar conference which took place in the preceding week at Kingston, Jamaica. At those gatherings the premiers of the West India colonies, and some of our provincial premiers, were in attendance. Many of the high officials of government as well as leaders in professions and industry were there. Both Canada and the West Indies were well represented. The main purpose was to learn as much as possible of the conditions as they might develop under the forthcoming Federation of the West Indies, and to consider how the relations between Canada and the West Indies might be strengthened and improved. In those assemblies were representatives of six islands and groups of islands, which under the guidance of Great Britain are forming themselves into a Federation. It is anticipated that another unit of the British Commonwealth of Nations will thus come into being.

I am sure our colleague, the honourable senator from Fredericton (Hon. Mrs. Fergusson), who took a prominent part in the proceedings, will agree with me that these gatherings were most useful from every point of view. For myself, personally, I might venture to say that the most outstanding impression I came away with was that the will to get together for mutual benefit did not seem to be weakened because of the difficulties and differences. I can tell you that these difficulties and differences were certainly not underestimated and will call for a tremendous amount of give and take and mutual reconciliation to ensure the federation working to full advantage. For example, those