

higher plane of civilization in the world, the foundations of which shall be peace and good will. We cannot shut our eyes to the fact that our position in the British Empire is a guarantee that the integrity of the country will be maintained and the welfare of its citizens promoted wherever their enterprise may lead them, and we may all hope and trust that the ties which bind us to the British Empire may be tightened rather than loosened in the future history of the country.

It is very gratifying indeed to find that the Government are thoroughly in advance of the public in everything that adds to the material welfare of the people themselves. We find our Government instituting, all over the country, experimental farms for the promotion of agriculture; we find a Labor Commission appointed for the purpose of ascertaining what is needed for the industrious population of the Dominion, and now we learn that they have been quietly ascertaining, through a Commission sent to Europe, the best methods of curing fish, and thus contributing very materially to the success of that important industry upon our Pacific and our Atlantic coasts. It will be a great advantage indeed to the fishermen of this country to have the difficulties which surround the administration of the rights of the Dominion in its foreshores, harbors, lakes and rivers settled by defining the limits of the administration between the Dominion Government and the Provinces. It is a question that has been surrounded with a great deal of difficulty, and there is no doubt that it will be many years before the constitutional limits between the Dominion and the Provinces will be thoroughly defined. It is important, as time goes on, that they should be clearly and definitely understood.

The Speech tells us that the Government has concluded the work of the Labor Commission, and that legislation will be introduced for the purpose of improving the administration of laws affecting the laboring classes. The question is one of great importance: I think that the fullest opportunity should be given to the laboring classes to co-operate for the protection of their interests, and that the laws should take that form which will tend to educate the laboring population to the responsibility of assuming that position. We witnessed a short time ago one of the greatest efforts ever

made in the history of the world by laboring classes for the protection and promotion of their own interests. I refer to the great strike of the dock yard laborers in London. They were supported by public opinion in that instance, because their demands were just. Their strike was eminently successful, for whenever a cause is right and just it receives the support of public opinion. It is worthy of observation, in view of the history of that strike, that the desire of the laboring classes for shorter hours of labor was not so much that they should gain recreation as that there should be a fairer division of the work that had to be done—that it should be more divided up where the laboring population was so excessively large. It is worthy of note, so far as our laboring classes are concerned, because in a new country like this, where we are launching out into the world of manufactures through our National Policy, it is not desirable that the interests of the public should be checked by shortening the hours of labor to any extent. Canada has been brought to the fair position that she occupies by excessively hard work on the part of those who came here and laid the foundations of the country, and who have been building it up ever since, and there is an immense field yet open to everyone who comes to this country or who is now laboring in it. I do not think that it is the part of wisdom altogether, as I have observed it has been the effort in the past, to restrict immigration or to interfere with the work of philanthropy in order to keep laborers out of this country in the interests of our own laboring population, because we have an enormous field from one end of Canada to the other where an industrial population can find work of some kind or other. If there is an idle man in the eastern part of Canada all he has to do is to go to the west and work for himself, where he becomes an independent laborer in the field of industry.

The subject of our banking institutions is to be brought before Parliament this Session, in connection with the measure for renewing the charters of banks. I would take this opportunity of giving one small bit of financial experience that I have had with regard to the banks: our country is very large, and we have local banks in various parts of it. My experience has been that bills which are issued in one part of the country are not payable in other parts