

Canada can furnish, but we have barely touched that great market. Other markets are equally available, but our western farmer must be put on a basis which will enable him to meet world competition.

With improved transportation facilities made available by the construction of such works as the Welland canal, the St. Lawrence ship canal system and the Hudson Bay railway; with lower transportation charges, especially westward and through Hudson bay; with cheaper methods of production and an aggressive trade policy, these vast markets can be secured for Canada and in particular for those Canadian products grown upon our western plains.

I wish to congratulate the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir) upon his efforts on behalf of the live stock industry, and upon the fact that at this moment Canadian live stock is beginning once more to move into the markets of Great Britain.

In my opinion greater expenditure could profitably be made upon research to assist the farmer to increase his acreage production and to combat the diseases and insect enemies which prey so heavily upon his crops.

I say again that there is every justification for confidence and optimism. Canada is a going concern, fundamentally sound. We are blessed beyond imagination in potential wealth awaiting development within our own borders, and we are wonderfully endowed with the means of realizing that wealth. Situated as we are between the rich markets of Europe on the one hand and those of Asia on the other, adjacent to a population of 120,000,000 to the south, with convenient access to the countries of Mexico, South America, Australia and Africa, we occupy a strategic trade position. We possess in abundance the varied resources of forest, field, water and mine, with almost a monopoly of some of the world's most essential requirements. We have unequalled natural inland waterways. We have a vast transportation system by sea and by land, splendid harbours, unlimited power resources based on both coal and water, available capital for investment purposes, and a people unequalled for industry, intelligence and resource. We have a new government enjoying the confidence of the people with a following sufficient to ensure stable, wise and progressive administration along definite and continuous lines. For these reasons Canada's future is one to inspire confidence and hope.

The late lamented Sir Wilfrid Laurier, with prophetic vision, declared that the nineteenth century belonged to the United States but that the twentieth century belonged to Can-

ada. Although almost one-third of that century has passed and our progress has fallen short of Sir Wilfrid's anticipation, there is every reason to believe that under the new administration that great vision will soon be well upon its way to fulfilment. Canada is well prepared for another great forward movement.

Mr. O. GAGNON (Dorchester): Mr. Speaker, it is indeed quite an unexpected privilege for me to be the first from my native province to convey to you, whom we all esteem, the heartfelt congratulations of the French speaking members upon your appointment.

The first commoner in the land derives from the most noble tradition of the mother of parliaments an unequalled prestige among those of his kin. You are, sir, the custodian by law established of the rights and privileges of the British subject in this country of ours. And when, as exemplified by your personal career, your efforts in so many directions have led to the goal of success, it is a matter of common pride and altogether fitting that your merits should be recognized and commended.

And now, with your kind permission, I shall comply gladly with a long established precedent of this house and add a few words in my mother tongue to what has been so ably said by the mover of the address, the hon. member for Regina (Mr. Turnbull) whom I am pleased to congratulate upon his splendid victory.

(Translation): Mr. Speaker, nineteen years ago, in the wake of a great Conservative victory, November 15, 1911, the twelfth parliament of Canada assembled. The man whom the Prime Minister of the day, Sir Robert Borden, had chosen to move the address in reply to the speech from the throne, had already attained an enviable reputation in the eastern provinces as well as beyond the great lakes. He was a fluent speaker, a brilliant barrister and a powerful debater who had won great success in the Alberta legislative assembly: the Hon. Richard Bedford Bennett, elected September 21, 1911, as member for Calgary in the Canadian House of Commons. An interesting coincidence in this connection is that the member who was chosen to second the address was exceptionally endowed and had just won back the riding of Dorchester to the traditional Conservative fold, and who, later on, distinguished himself both in this Parliament and on the bench: The Hon. Albert Sévigny.

Years have gone by. The fortunes of political life have greatly enhanced the