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very best wishes for a most successful meeting and that it is my earnest hope that the objects of the Conference may be fully attained. The Executive Committee of the National Fund will, I know, be grateful for any suggestions that the collective experience of the delegates may lead them to lay before it.

Believe me

Yours sincerely,

"ARTHUR"

*Hon. Sir Wm. Mulock, K.C.M.G.,
Toronto.*

We have here with us to-day a very good representative of His Royal Highness in the person of Sir John Hendrie, Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Ontario. In his presence I will not refer further to what he and his family are doing in the cause that is now close to the hearts of all of us.

The explanation for the gathering of this meeting is this: The parent society, called the Canadian Patriotic Fund, with headquarters at Ottawa, is most desirous of conducting its deliberations and all its affairs in entire harmony with public opinion. In dealing with a great trust such as is in our hands it is impossible to please everyone, and different opinions, honestly different, will be entertained as to the best methods to be pursued in the wisest administration of this trust. The parent society, the Canadian Patriotic Fund, is most anxious from time to time to learn from the branches what improvements, what changed methods are desirable in the interests of the trust, and with that view the parent society has desired to bring together representatives of the branches of the Fund of Eastern Canada in the hope that they may deliberate to advantage at this Conference. We have present to-day the active, efficient Secretary, Sir Herbert Ames. I regard him as the leading spirit in the carrying out of our Trust. His is a responsible office, and it is being faithfully and, I think, efficiently filled. We welcome him here, and in welcoming him give him a most grateful reception.

I do not propose to do anything further than to point out that, although a programme is assigned, it is not intended thereby to exclude from consideration other subjects which might suggest themselves to the members, but the Association desires to be informed as to the views of the Conference on certain specific propositions, and it would be expedient, therefore, to deal with those propositions and to pass judgment upon them. If there is time left to take up any other suggestions that may occur to any of the members, we can do so. Therefore, between now and the close of this meeting, I