

ous illness of Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Connaught while absent from Canada during the recess. Their Royal Highnesses have so endeared themselves to the people of Canada as to elicit from our entire people not only the deepest anxiety and sympathy, under such circumstances as those to which allusion has been made, but also a deeply abiding and most friendly interest in all that pertains to their happiness and prosperity, no matter whether it be in relation to their public or private life, and particularly will the people of Canada continue to exercise their sympathy and hope for the restoration to a full measure of health and strength of Her Royal Highness. I also feel assured in saying that it is the wish and the hope of the people of Canada that their Royal Highnesses will see their way clear to continue for a substantially extended period in their present high office, the duties of which they have discharged with peculiarly marked satisfaction to the people of the Dominion.

Reference has been made in the Address to the extension of Canada's trade, and gratification has been expressed that, notwithstanding the financial stringency and depression of trade which have been experienced all over the world, Canada has safely passed through the ordeal. It is gratifying to note that our external trade for the nine months ending December 31 last has exceeded by over eighty millions of dollars the corresponding nine months of 1912. It is gratifying that our exports have very considerably exceeded during those nine months the volume of exports in the corresponding period of 1912. I find upon making inquiry as to the volume of our imports for 1912, that for the nine months ending December 31, 1912, they had reached \$307,525,764, whereas during the period ending December 31, 1913, they had reached the very substantial and increased volume of \$388,707,375, an increase of nearly \$82,000,000.

With reference to our exports, I might say this is a matter upon which we may felicitate ourselves, inasmuch as for many years we have heard grave apprehensions expressed at the fact that the volume of import so far exceeded the exports. Our imports during the nine months ending December 31, 1912, amounted to \$516,619,986, whereas the figure was slightly exceeded in the nine months ending December 31, 1913, and showed the enormous amount of \$517,532,014. It is gratifying in this con-

nection also to note, notwithstanding the anticipated decrease in revenue, owing to the financial stringency and depression of trade to which I have alluded, that during the nine months preceding the expiration of 1913 the revenue was about \$3,000,000, substantially in excess of the nine months ending December 31, 1912. We therefore may congratulate ourselves not only as a government, but, I think, as a people, that notwithstanding the world-wide stringency which we have very considerably felt within the Dominion of Canada, our trade statistics afford such a very satisfactory showing as that which I have pointed out. It has also been a matter for congratulation that the crop of 1913 has been so satisfactory, and has permitted the financial condition of Canada being placed in the comparatively satisfactory position which we to-day occupy. It is satisfactory to note that the crop of 1913 has been the largest ever produced within the Dominion of Canada, representing some 702,244,000 bushels of grain, exceeding substantially the crop of 1912, which was regarded as an extraordinarily large crop. It has been customary in the past for governments to make some little claim for the success of the crops. It is not the desire of this Government to usurp the position of Providence with reference to our harvests, but it has been customary I know to read between the lines in the utterances of past governments—I will not draw any invidious distinctions as to the governments to which I make reference—as to their being largely responsible for the success of the harvest. The early rains and the later rains, the shining of the sun, the falling of the dew, the growing of the grass, the flourishing of the crop, and the prosperity flowing therefrom have been largely attributed in past years to the waving of the magic wand of the Government of the day. But there is a branch of this subject for which the Government of the day may claim some credit. I refer to the marketing of the crops. This Government undoubtedly has given closer and more practical attention to this important subject than any government of the past. The organization of the Grain Commission, the placing upon our Statute Books of statutory enactments dealing with the regulation of transportation, of terminal facilities, of terminal grain elevators; these and all other matters which enter into the marketing of a crop, have received the