

Royal Highness was engaged in traversing this great country from ocean to ocean, making himself acquainted with all its conditions, and becoming seized with the spirit of its people. It was a great task which he undertook, a task which he carried out with that devotion to duty which has characterized him all his life. There is no doubt I am sure in the mind of any hon. gentleman in this House that the visit of His Royal Highness to all these provinces of Canada has resulted not only in a stronger spirit of union between this country and the whole Empire, but in a stronger spirit of Canadian unity and solidarity than even we possessed heretofore.

I now come to some observations of my right hon. friend the leader of the Opposition with which I am not so inclined to agree. He indulged in some more or less slighting remarks with regard to the arrangements that have been made in Western Canada for the purpose of removing any possible congestion in the transportation of the grain crop. Does my right hon. friend object to these arrangements that have been made? If he does not object, then why does he waste the time of the House in discussing them? We desire to do everything in our power to facilitate the transportation of the West and increasing products of Western Canada, and not only this year but last year we took such action with regard to that as will commend itself to the men of Eastern Canada and to the men of Western Canada as well.

My right hon. friend corrected himself with regard to the West Indies agreement, and he might have followed that example with regard to some other portions of his speech. Ever since the defeat of the Highways Bill, last year, at his dictation—because he took full responsibility for the defeat of that Bill in the Senate—ever since then he has been endeavouring to explain and to apologize for that unfortunate action of his. To-day we have a renewed attempt on his part to explain and to apologize. Well, I can only say to my right hon. friend that the best explanation and apology he can give for that unfortunate action on his part last year, would be a suggestion to his friends in the Senate that when that Bill goes through this House again they shall take good care not to lay unholy hands on it.

My right hon. friend referred also to the naval question and he spoke of certain currents and cross-currents which he said had resulted in the submersion of an important Minister of the Crown. My hon. friend (Mr. Monk) is not here to-day to speak for himself, unfortunately he is ill, but I venture to believe that the late Minister of Public Works will be able to dis-

cuss his position on that question with my right hon. friend or with any other member of this House. My hon. friend (Mr. Monk) acting under a high sense of duty, did see fit to resign his position in the Government, but I venture to think that it will not lie in the mouth of my right hon. friend to utter one word of criticism or reproach against the hon. gentleman (Mr. Monk) in respect to that. Currents and cross-currents and dissensions—why did not my right hon. friend explain the remarkable change of programme under which he gave up his projected tour in Western Canada? There were tremendous headlines in the Liberal press all over the country, and especially in the province of Ontario, announcing a tour to be made by the right hon. gentleman who was to speak in every province of Western Canada. They were followed by what? By a gathering of certain very influential members of the party in the city of Ottawa, and, if I am not mistaken, within the very precincts of this building. I am not in a position to speak with absolute accuracy as to what took place, but there are rumours that loud tones were heard, that harsh words were interchanged, that fists were even shaken across the table, and that these eccentricities of temperament and temper did not by any means cease when these gentlemen emerged into public gaze. Indeed my right hon. friend was said to have been so very much disturbed by what took place on that particular occasion, that he was not quite himself during the rest of the day, at a public occasion when he had an important duty to perform. As a direct result of these loud and unfortunate dissensions the great western tour was abandoned.

Well, we will go on to one or two more references which my hon. friend has made. He touched on the naval question somewhat lightly. I do not propose to deal with it to-day, because the proposals of the Government will come before Parliament at a very early date, and we shall have full opportunity of debating that question; but he tells us that he had always heard that England feared no enemy. I would rather put it in this way, that the Empire fears no enemy. But, Sir, the fact that the Empire fears no enemy is not a good reason in my estimation why we should delay to a day of possible peril that preparation which ought to be made in advance.

My right hon. friend spoke of change of grades on the Transcontinental railway. I think he will find that my hon. colleague, the Minister of Railways and Canals, will have an answer with regard to that particular question, which, whether it is satisfactory to my right hon. friend or not, will be found eminently satisfactory by the

Mr. BORDEN.