

try to know that this young Dominion is making such marked progress. They rejoice to see the evidences that this progress is likely to continue, and that we are likely to go forward in our career of prosperity until ultimately we reach that high degree to which we believe this young Dominion is destined.

His Excellency also refers to the necessity of increasing the number of our commercial agencies in the different countries for the purpose of facilitating and developing our trade. I look upon that proposal with a great deal of satisfaction. I think the people of this country will hail with delight this move of the government and the reference of His Excellency to the necessity of increasing our commercial agencies throughout the world. We know that other countries, notably the American Republic to the south of us, have commercial agencies located in every principal town and city of this Dominion, and in other countries as well, while Canada has been depending upon the agents appointed by Great Britain who are not able to afford our manufacturers the advantages which the American government furnish to their manufacturers. I am sure that there is nothing the people of Canada will hail with greater delight than this reference of His Excellency to the necessity of increasing the number of commercial agencies and of making additional provision for these agencies.

Then, reference is also made to the fact of the Australian and New Zealand governments having accepted an invitation from this government to attend a conference in London next June, for the consideration of trade, transportation, cable and other matters of intercolonial concern. I think that this conference will be of enormous advantage to this Dominion. I hope the results that will flow from it will bind still closer and closer the bonds between Great Britain and her various colonies, and I am sure that those whom we send to represent us there will look well after our interests and will, I hope, be able to effect such arrangements with our sister colonies of Australia and New Zealand as will tend to the development of our trade and to the increase of the prosperity in this Dominion in accordance with the wishes expressed by His Excellency the Governor General.

I am also pleased to note that this government has reached the conclusion that a direct steamship service with South Africa would enable Canada to secure a profitable market for her various products, and that to that end will endeavour to arrange for such a service. I think that when the war, which is now going on in South Africa, is happily brought to a close—and we all hope that the end is not far distant—that, when the country is in a settled state again, when the war is over, and

when a grand South African confederation is established on the lines of this Dominion, there will be an enormous development of trade throughout that country and it is our bounden duty as a wise and careful people to see that we obtain our share of that trade; but, it is quite impossible to establish a trade with these far distant countries unless we have a direct line of steamships running regularly so that shippers may know just when their products can be forwarded to those markets. Given this line of steamship accommodation, I believe the result will be that we will be able to establish in the South African confederacy an enormous trade. I consider the time exceedingly opportune to establish such steamship communication, because we all know that when trade gets into certain channels it is exceedingly difficult to turn it in other directions, and so it is proper and wise for us to take time by the forelock and establish this line of steamships which will sail from Eastern Canada to South Africa, and perhaps continue on further to Australia, thus establishing a regular steamship communication which will redound to the advantage of Canada, and build up this great Dominion, as I believe, nothing else can build it up.

Another matter to which His Excellency refers is the coronation of His Most Gracious Majesty, King Edward VII. in June next. There is no doubt, Sir, that this will be an event such as has never occurred before, and will seldom occur in a life time again. We are pleased to know that the premiers of all the different provinces will be invited to attend the coronation, and, that among the great galaxy of men from every country in this wide world, not only from all the British colonies, but men speaking different languages, perhaps, and of different nationalities, coming from foreign countries, the brightest, smartest, and ablest that the world can produce, the man above all men, the man whom everybody will delight to honour, the man who will tower away above all others and the man who on a former occasion when the world's great men met to celebrate the jubilee of the King's mother, who stood on a pedestal of glory and honour was the premier of this vast Dominion. I think we may all be proud that we have a statesman of such ability, a man of such magnetic influence, a man who is recognized not only in the British colonies, but all over the world as one of the grandest and noblest and brightest statesmen that this world has ever produced.

I beg to move:

That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General, to thank His Excellency for his gracious speech at the opening of the present session; and, further, to assure His Excellency that—

1. We unite with His Excellency, at the commencement of another session of parliament, in