

nationality. I am proud that on that memorable occasion, as upon several other occasions, our fellow-countrymen gave such a good account of themselves and furnished a fresh proof of their loyalty to the British Crown. Some people, who are unacquainted with the province of Quebec, and are unaware that gratitude is one of the moral characteristics of our race, are still inquiring whether the French Canadians are really loyal to the British Crown. That is now a question of the past. French Canadians are as loyal to the British Crown as their fathers were in 1776 and 1812, when, in a supreme effort, they spared the Union Jack the fate meted out to the flag adorned with fleurs-de-lis, which had to cross the sea again. Our fellow-countrymen have upheld the British flag in this country. And as to us, the young generation of to-day, we mean also to uphold the same flag. Still, were I allowed to offer a suggestion, en passant, I would ask to simplify the Dominion flag. As it is now, it bears the arms of seven provinces. It is too complicated and too hard to popularize. I would suggest that the Canadian flag, instead of having the Canadian coat-of-arms on the red field, should bear simply a maple leaf, as a type and symbol of a united Canada.

We are given to understand in the address that Canada may be favoured, next summer, with the visit of the Duke of Cornwall and York. It is within the recollection of several members of this House with what enthusiasm the Prince of Wales in 1860 was received at Halifax, Quebec, Montreal and elsewhere. Canada will feel proud and happy, and, in a particular manner, the people of the province of Quebec, I have no doubt, will be delighted to tender the royal visitor just as enthusiastic and as loyal a reception as that accorded his illustrious father.

And in this connection, Sir, there is a point to which, for my own part, I wish to draw attention. And I think I am voicing the general opinion of the House, when I say that we should be glad that His Royal Highness, on his return trip from Australia, should be accompanied to Canada by the right hon. Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), who is expected to go and attend the celebration of the opening of the great Australian Commonwealth. Should the right hon. premier consent to visit that country, I need not say that he will just as creditably represent Canada upon that occasion and reflect as much honour on our country, as he has already done, when upon former occasions representing us in Great Britain, in France, and in the United States.

I shall not dwell at any length upon the visit of His Excellency the Governor General to Dawson City, as a review of all the facts connected with it would involve too lengthy developments.

Let it suffice to say that the country, in general, is satisfied with the organization of

the Yukon territory and with its administration by the government. Canadians, who but a few years ago, fancied that the Yukon was the limit of civilization, have fortunately been undeceived, as we are now told that a French Canadian, no longer satisfied with going to the Yukon, is about to undertake the task of hoisting the Union Jack on the North Pole. Such an achievement would certainly redound to the credit of Canada, provided it were undertaken with the energy, patience and necessary resources to make it a success.

Now, I come to another clause in the address, that which makes mention of the Universal Exposition in Paris, and of the prominent place occupied by Canada. There is ample matter for congratulation in the excellent display made by Canada, and in the number of awards won by our country; and we have reason to believe that our natural resources will be better appreciated as they come to be better known. It was undoubtedly no small matter of wonderment to France to see such a display of natural products and such evidences of marked progress, coming from a country referred to by Voltaire in the last century, as 'a few acres of snow.' For the triumph which has been achieved in Paris we are indebted to the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) and the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher), who have spared no efforts to make our exhibit a success. It is gratifying to know that one of the results of that great industrial competition will be the removal of such obstacles as now bar the way to the full development of our trade with France. We hope in the near future to see that commercial intercourse increase by leaps and bounds.

The next subject touched upon in the address is the improvement of the St. Lawrence route, that great thoroughfare of our country. If Canada wishes to successfully compete with the United States, on the peaceful ground of trade, there is no other way open to us but in improving more and more the St. Lawrence route, and making it the great thoroughfare Providence intended it to be. It is gratifying for the country to know that the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) is devoting all his energies to the achievement of that task. Much has already been done, but much remains to be done. The St. Lawrence route is at present threatened so far as the insurance rates are concerned, and attempts are being made to deprive it of the natural advantages bestowed upon it by Providence. I am confident that the government will spare no efforts to secure to that route the control and supremacy it has a natural right to.

In a short paragraph of the speech, reference is made in a very modest way to the increase in the general volume of trade and revenue. True, there was no necessity for the government to expatiate on the position of the country. For, no man can plead