

That is a very kind certificate of good character, a very kind testimonial to the people of this country and such a testimonial as we would expect from a man of his judgment, his knowledge of public affairs, and his acquaintance with other parts of His Majesty's dominions beyond the seas. We may express the hope that his successors will find Canadians maintaining the same reputation for industry and enterprise and equal loyalty to the Crown as I am sure the Canadians of this generation display.

Passing over these two first paragraphs I come to four paragraphs, in succession, which are all eulogies, and which express in varied language but similar tone the appreciation of His Majesty's government of the prosperity of Canada. In paragraph 3—and you notice the language is very chaste and amiable—the speech says 'It is most gratifying to observe that the trade of the Dominion is increasing.' Paragraph 4 refers to: 'The remarkable activities which gives assurance of continued progress and prosperity.' Paragraph 5 refers to: 'A copious and welcome stream of immigration,' and paragraph 6 says: 'The labours of the husbandman have been blessed with an ample return.' In these four departments of national industry the words are most complimentary. What do they mean? I suppose they really mean that the prosperity to which they refer actually exists. They mean more: They are a eulogy of the government which preceded them; which under the kindly protection of a beneficent Providence has assisted in laying the foundations for that prosperity which we now enjoy and which gives us such cause for gratification. But prosperity is not like Jonah's gourd, a thing that springs up in a night. The foundations of England's great commercial activity were not laid in this century, nor in last century nor in the preceding century. They are the developed industrial enterprise arising from that aggressive spirit which characterizes the Saxon wherever he goes. We have I trust, some drops of that great blood in our veins, some of these qualities which have made Great Britain great and made her not only sovereign in the seven

seas, but which has made her the greatest commercial nation in the world. The growth of our trade and commerce is a gratifying instance of what Canada can produce over and above what she can consume. The imports and exports of the country illustrate the industrial activity of a people over and above what is required for the necessities of life. If we export fifty dollars per head it shows that we have much to supply to other nations over and above what we require, and, as my hon. friend from St. John (Hon. Mr. Daniel) has shown, the commerce of this country now represents, although he did not give the figures I am going to use, not only what is theoretically an enormous increase in the activity of all our industries but an increase in the producing qualities of our people—and that is a most significant feature—but it represents per capita more than twice the commerce of the United States and, dollar for dollar per capita, the commerce of Great Britain, to which country we are so happily attached. What does that mean? Thirty years ago our commerce represented \$40 per head; now it represents \$125 per head. That is, to-day Canada produces three times as much as Canadians produced thirty years ago even that great productive power may, possibly by specializing our great industries, be increased. It may be possible that we shall be able to report on the floor of this House that we have even exceeded in our productivity and in the development of our resources the standard which Great Britain has set and which is now the standard of the world. Trade and commerce offer many advantages not only in developing the brawn and intellect of the people, but no nation can hope to attain the greatness which is not in some sense a commercial nation, and it is in this respect that Great Britain, and more lately Germany, have shown their pre-eminence. Napoleon, wise beyond his generation in many respects, scoffed at England as a nation of shopkeepers. England has in some sense become great because she is a nation that knows how to buy and sell, and in a similar sense we who know how to buy and how to sell, in proportion as we are able to take

Hon. Mr. ROSS.