

ous future, I have the honour to move, seconded by the hon. member for Fraser Valley (Mr. Barber), that an address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General, to humbly thank His Excellency for the gracious speech he was pleased to make to the two houses of parliament.

Mr. H. J. BARBER (Fraser Valley): Mr. Speaker, upon rising to second the motion of the hon. member for Compton (Mr. Gobeil) may I be permitted to express to the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) and his colleagues my appreciation of their recognition of the Pacific coast province and the honour they have done the Fraser Valley constituency by inviting their representative to second this important motion. I have been told that in making this choice the qualifications taken into consideration by governments are youth and inexperience and no doubt these applied in choosing a member from British Columbia.

The task which I have been asked to undertake to-day is a pleasant one compared with that of last year and the year before. During the last two years the most one could do was to express a somewhat pious hope that conditions might improve, but to-day we are entering a new year with something more than hope. We have before us definite evidence that the clouds are lifting, that the downward spiral of the depression has been checked and that the upward movement has been in progress in Canada for the last eight or ten months. The speech draws to our attention the improved world conditions and the fact that these have been reflected in Canada by expanding trade, increased revenues and increased employment. The optimism which prevails to-day throughout the whole dominion has been reflected in the speech. It would perhaps be difficult to find any one year since the war that has been so crowded with climaxes as the year 1933. We had the American crisis and the measures with which it was met; we had the world conference; we had the German revolution; we had the disarmament deadlock and the wild dance of world currencies, some of which have been wholesome while others have been very disconcerting. But the underlying fact remains that in the midst of the lashing surf the tide has turned.

The world is gradually returning to economic stability. In Great Britain a higher level of prosperity has been manifest and the British people regard the depression as a thing of the past. This condition is reflected in other parts of the empire. In European and leading Asiatic countries there is, in the main, a

marked improvement. Upon this continent and elsewhere the forward march has resumed; world trade which had sunk to one-third of its normal volume is expanding again. To no country in the world is this more important than to Canada, as normally we export one-third of our total production, and to that extent our economic destiny is bound up with that of our neighbour nations.

The development of trade is a function of government, and although the general improvement in world conditions has been reflected in this country, at the same time I believe that the great mass of the Canadian people realize that the return to better conditions in this country must be credited to the untiring efforts and the policy of the present administration. In 1930 the leader of the Conservative party, the present Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett), gave to the people of this dominion a pledge that if he were placed at the head of government in this country he would see to it that Canadians were afforded an equal opportunity with their competitors to carry on the development of Canada. That pledge has been fulfilled to the letter.

In order to give that opportunity the tariff was increased; the Customs Act was amended to prevent the dumping of surplus products of foreign countries on the Canadian market, and this action alone saved many producers in Canada from complete ruin. We have been told that the tariff is high, and there is no doubt that we shall be told again this session that the tariff is high. We admit that it is high. But, as the Prime Minister has pointed out on more than one occasion, the tariff is simply an instrument, and under present conditions it has been applied in cases of emergency. Other instruments have been used, instruments perhaps more painful than the tariff—the dumping duty and even the embargo—have been applied in order to save Canadian industry.

Those of us who come from fruit districts, and from districts where other lines of farm produce are grown, fully realize the great benefit that has been derived from the imposition of these dumping duties. In my own district, where large quantities of small fruits and vegetables are produced, had it not been for the dumping duty against surplus American products, these producers would have been out of business two years ago. This applies not only to districts in British Columbia, but to other districts throughout Canada.

At the same time this government has directed its efforts, and with considerable success, towards selling Canadian products. Through trade commissioners, through treaties