

culties in its way, that poverty which is often an inducement to emigration.

If it be true that the Government intend increasing this year the grant to agriculture, allow me, Mr. Speaker, to make a few suggestions. Most of the Quebec constituencies are situated at great distances from agricultural schools, and it is a rather difficult matter for farmers to send their children thither. Would it not be advisable to encourage the providing of special classes of agriculture in connection with the business colleges throughout the province? Would it not also be a good plan to increase the number of model farms, to grant each year special and substantial prizes for the best kept farms, and to appoint men for illustration purposes in the various counties?

But what I am more especially expected to solicit from government for this year, is a grant to agricultural societies towards improving their exhibition grounds and buildings with a view to imparting to farm boys an adequate idea of the importance of this feast of agriculture, at which, once every year, farmers from the various parts of the country congregate, compete and compare notes.

Such action of the Government will, I am confident, instil courage in every heart, will do away with apathy, and create a race of sturdy workers, who realize what agriculture means to a country in the shape of cheer and comfort; and then, instead of deserting their village, they will hearken to the great voice of Mother Earth, and huddle around the parish church, whose steeple, the symbol of hope, seems to watch over every home.

Agriculture no longer ensures stability. Young men leave the farms without heed of the future. They take to the cities, there to live under conditions at best uncertain, very often miserable. To all those deserters of farm life, to all those place seekers who idle in the streets and increase the number of unemployed, I suggest that they meditate the following lines of the poet so touching and yet so true for them as well as for us:

Et comment se fait-il, voilà ce que j'admire,
Qu'aucun père, à son fils, ne s'avise de dire:
Paris est encombré de hardis compagnons,
Retourne aux champs déserts, aux champs
dont nous venons.
Portes-y ta jeunesse et tes saines idées,
C'est là qu'est le salut de la société.
Remettez en honneur le soc de la charrue;
Repeuplez la campagne au dépens de la rue;
Grevez d'impôts la ville et dégrevez les
champs,
Ayez moins de bourgeois et plus de paysans.

Sir, I cannot help pointing out that Canada's forward march has continued steadily and successfully without the help of reciprocity with the United States. I am

Mr. RAINVILLE.

satisfied that the development of our trade with England and its overseas dominions will be more beneficial to our economic progress and to the expansion of our national resources, than would have been the depressing outlook pointed to in the famous Taft-Roosevelt correspondence.

Sir, among other changes outlined in the Speech from the Throne, I notice the revision of the Banking Act. The upholding and safeguarding of our credit are things of the greatest importance, and the circulating medium, as well as deposits, should be surrounded with every guarantee the legislator is able to provide.

Lastly, Sir, a question of the greatest import for our country at this juncture, is that relative to its share in the defence of the empire of which Canada forms part.

We are not all agreed as to the form that contribution should take, but from one end of the country to the other, Canadians are unanimously intent on maintaining England's supremacy at sea, in the interest of the whole British Empire.

And should any one doubt my words, I might read the resolution of 1909. I might even quote, if it were deemed necessary from an editorial of 'Le Devoir', of October 12, 1912, wherein the following words appear: 'The Nationalists have never contended that Canada should not do anything for the safety of the Empire.'

However, Sir, let me state very plainly my mind in this connection. Europe is threatened with a general war. It is not yet known whether the great powers will allow the small Balkan states to extend their boundaries. The decisive victory won by the Bulgarian army has unexpectedly set diplomacy on the alert. Inevitably the powers will have to intervepe, and it is a difficult matter to foresee what will be the outcome as regards European intercourse. England is not a disinterested onlooker; she will likely have to take a stand, and if war breaks out, an array of all her forces will be in order. Under the circumstances, the stand taken by the government will be readily understood.

If we are rightly informed, the Government propose introducing this year a provisional measure of assistance, reserving the right to consult the people, when the time comes to provide for a permanent contribution, and such contribution, if and when it is granted, to be made dependent on the right of representation in the councils of the Empire. That is the purport of the statements made in England and in this House, on behalf of the Government, by the Right Hon. Prime Minister who has the support of the country.

To my mind, that is a reasonable proposal and neither our autonomy nor our constitution will suffer thereby.

As for those who would recklessly refuse to do anything to help Great Britain, the