

A D D R E S S

OF

SIR EDMUND WALKER, C. V. O.

PRESIDENT OF THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE

DELIVERED AT THE ANNUAL DINNER OF THE CANADIAN
MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION, IN MONTREAL
ON THE 19TH JANUARY, 1911.

I have to thank you for the honour you have done me in asking me to respond to this toast.

I need not remind you of the hazardous experiment we undertook about forty years ago when the scattered provinces east of Lake Superior and the forlorn outpost on the Pacific concluded to acquire the vast prairie interval, the Great Lone Land, and out of these apparently hopelessly incoherent elements to found a nation. How almost comical it seems now to recall that our main hope of success lay in one railroad in the West to connect the forlorn outpost across the sea of mountains with our prairies and Great Lakes, and another in the East, to connect the Maritime Provinces with Quebec. And yet our greatest national question to-day, as then, is transportation, and each newly opened section of Canada measures its opportunity for success mainly by that one element.