

other day, state that he had received a communication from Lord Dufferin in which he expressed a wish to be remembered to his friends in Canada, and I was struck very much with the remark which His Excellency made, "that it would be almost impossible to remember his lordship to all his friends, because he could not possibly see every person in the Dominion." It was an expression which I think must give the people of this country very great satisfaction. The interest which the Marquis of Lorne has taken in this country is evidenced by his labors since he returned to the old country, in laying the claims of Canada, as a field for emigration, before the people of Great Britain, and in holding up this country in its true light to a people who, to a certain extent, have hitherto been ignorant as to the resources of Canada. He has never ceased since he left here to place this country before the people of England in its proper light.

His Excellency has only been a short time amongst us, but I think, from what we have seen and heard of him, that we will be able to say at the end of his term of office that he has been a worthy successor of Lord Dufferin and the Marquis of Lorne in filling the vice-regal chair in this Dominion.

The next clause in the Speech to which I shall refer is that with regard to the harvest. It is a very serious matter for almost every country when the harvest has been a failure, or has not produced what is generally thought to be an average crop. A good deal has been said about it in the country, and it is a dangerous element in disarranging business when the impression gets abroad that the harvest has been a failure. I would just draw the attention of hon. gentlemen to the difference between a failure of the crops some years ago, and the failure of the crops at the present time. After the Crimean war, for instance, every farmer turned up all the land he could possibly till, and sowed it in wheat, neglecting all the routine of crops which farmers ought to observe, and the raising of cattle and everything else but wheat was abandoned. When that crop failed, it was the only resource of the farmer, leaving him nothing to fall back upon; but fortunately since that time the farming community in this

country have been changing their mode of agriculture, and to-day, if the wheat crop (which is only one crop out of the many, and is the only one below the average) should fail altogether, the farmers have sufficient other crops, and the raising of cattle, and other resources, to fall back upon, which would prevent them from seriously feeling the loss. I think if an estimate was made to-day, of the net profit of the farmers on their produce during the last year, taking everything into account, that it would be much larger than it has been in any previous year in Canada.

A portion of this clause refers also to the disarrangement of trade and commerce. This, in my opinion, is chargeable, to a very great extent, to over-importations, but I have every confidence in the business men of our country, who are generally men of means, shrewd men, who can foresee difficulties when they arise, and by careful management on their part I do not see any reason to be alarmed at the result. This disturbance has arisen principally from the fact of the supposed failure of the wheat crop and an expectation that returns from creditors outside will not meet their liabilities. But in talking with many of the business men of the country, and bankers, I find that payments have never been made so promptly by creditors as during the past year. The difference between a stringency with commercial men this year, and a stringency ten years ago is quite apparent. At that time they had nothing to fall back upon excepting the crops, and when these failed, as I said before, a crisis was inevitable. To-day we have an accumulation of capital belonging to the consumers of this country which has been growing for the last five or six years. Tradesmen, mechanics, and laborers have all during the last five years been enabled to lay by a proportion of their earnings, and to-day there stands over \$20,000,000, as I believe, to their credit in the different banks of the country, from which in times of difficulties and distress they can draw for a living. This keeps up the consuming power of the country, and our wholesale merchants and importers need not for a moment dread the result; this, with an influx of immigration increasing the consuming power, must so balance trade that I see no reason why any difficulty or distress should come up-