

It appears to me that as time goes on and as we know more of this great land of ours, the importance of the deliberations of Parliament becomes greater every year, and at the present time we are called upon most seriously to consider the best course to pursue for the future welfare, happiness and prosperity of this Dominion. We are told that the season in which we are assembled has opened auspiciously for the industries of our people. It is gratifying to hope and believe that the season will be a prosperous one. Although it is yet early to predict an abundant harvest, from present appearances there is every indication of prosperity in the country, and in this regard I am pleased to find the Minister of Agriculture occupying a position on the floor of this Senate. I am sure that every hon. gentleman will be very much pleased indeed to find that the Government have taken a new departure, and are giving us better representation in the Government of the day in this Chamber by the appointment of that hon. gentleman. I may say that in my opinion the Department over which that hon. gentleman presides has been administered with very marked ability and advantage to the agriculturists of this Dominion. The publication of the bulletins from the Experimental Farm, which I hope will hereafter be issued monthly, is of very great service indeed to the agriculturists, and the great work which is being performed by the Experimental Farms under the management of the hon. gentleman I have referred to must eventually be of inestimable value to the people of the Dominion. The information given by that Department to the farmers in general—the instruction, advice and counsel that they are receiving almost daily from that Department—must be of great service to them, not only in the management of their farms and the cultivation of their land, but in the promotion of fruit culture and dairying, which has been attended in this country with success to a very marked degree. Then there is the very great convenience of testing seeds for the farmers throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion, the introduction and supplying of new seeds of all kinds, and the inducement to farmers from all parts of the Dominion to correspond with the Director of the Experimental Farms, so that they may participate in the scientific knowledge which that gentleman

HON. MR. PROWSE.

is enabled to impart. All this must eventually be of great service to the people of Canada.

Second to the agricultural interests of the Dominion, I look upon the mines of our country as being, perhaps, almost equal, if not fully equal in importance to agriculture. I believe that we have gold and silver to a large extent in this Dominion, and, what is of still greater importance, we have iron, nickel and coal in vast quantities. These, in my opinion, will be, and I hope in the near future, fully developed, not only for the purpose of exporting the ore that is taken from these mines to foreign countries, but that we may ourselves manufacture them in our own country, and that they may be made more valuable by the labour our own people will bestow upon them. It is said that the man who makes two blades of grass grow where only one grew before is a public benefactor. The same may be said of our minerals. The ore from the mines when manufactured into useful articles of commerce and trade will become a very great source of wealth to this country, just as the wealth of Great Britain has been promoted from her mines, and the manufacture of the ores that are taken from them into useful articles, and I hope we shall ere long find on the rivers of this Dominion second Clydes, where iron ships may be built to compete with those of other countries. To do this, in my opinion it is necessary to instil into the minds of capitalists confidence in our political and our monetary institutions, that they may feel safe in making investments to develop those mines, and to manufacture those ores into useful articles of commerce.

We are also advised by the Government of this Dominion that negotiations are pending with the United States for the promotion of reciprocity between the Dominion and that country. It is very desirable and necessary that the questions which are referred to in the Speech of His Excellency should be amicably settled between these two great nations. I believe there are many articles of commerce that we might wisely exchange, articles produced in the Dominion, for those produced in the United States. I am aware that in an address of this kind I should not discuss the political questions of the day from a party standpoint, and I think that we may feel safe in referring the dis-