

as to what efforts it has made or proposes to make to remove this very grave injustice.

Another subject on which we have no information is the Alaskan boundary question. We were told last year by my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) that a provisional boundary line, in the nature of a compromise, had been arranged between the two countries, and that the report of the commission appointed to establish that boundary line was to be very shortly brought down. I inquired whether or not this line was in the nature of a compromise, and I rather gathered from the reply of my right hon. friend that I would obtain all the necessary information from the report of the commission. Well, I have examined that report with some care, and I do not understand whether the compromise which has been made, is entirely at the expense of Canada, or whether we have on the Canadian side of the so-called provisional line any portion of territory which the United States are claiming. I do not conceal from myself the fact that there may be grave difficulties in dealing with this question, and I do not want to say anything that might embarrass the government in its dealings with the Imperial government, but I would like to point this out to my right hon. friend, that the longer the United States remains in possession of any portion of Canadian territory, which we think we can rightfully claim, the greater will be our difficulty in the future in asserting our rights. Therefore I think it is only my duty, occupying the position I do, to urge this matter on the attention of the right hon. gentleman and ask him to confide to the House whatever information he may properly divulge as to the present condition of the negotiations between the Imperial government and the United States with regard to that particular point.

There is another matter which has not been referred to in the Speech from the Throne, and you, Sir, will perhaps have noticed that there are almost as many matters not referred to, and to which reference properly should have been made, as those which are particularly mentioned. We understand from the newspapers that a contingent was sent from Canada during the past few months to South Africa for the purpose of assisting the troops of the empire. We have heard through the same source of the terms on which that contingent was sent and certain negotiations in connection therewith; but up to the present parliament is absolutely ignorant, so far as official communication is concerned, as to what contingent has been sent, as to the terms upon which it has been sent, and as to any negotiations between this country and the Imperial government with regard to that contingent. I certainly would have thought that the sending of a contingent of brave Canadian soldiers to South Africa was a circumstance deserving of some re-

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax).

ference in the Speech from the Throne, and that the government would have taken parliament into its confidence at once and given us the fullest details on so important a subject.

The country is congratulated upon the very satisfactory condition of its revenue and the expansion of general business, as evidenced by the increased value of exports and imports. I do not regard a great increase in the imports as absolute evidence of prosperity. It might well be that while great manufacturing industries in Canada were being crowded out of existence by competition from abroad, the volume of our imports would increase; and I think that some closer reasoning and more conclusive evidence with regard to the conditions of prosperity might have been furnished us. I, for one, do not believe in the doctrine of buying in the cheapest market, if it is to be done at the expense of our manufacturing industries. We have had conflicting views expressed by members of the government on this point within the past few months.

The hon. the Minister of the Interior (Hon. Mr. Sifton), who, I regret, is not in his place, is reported in the public press as having said not long ago at a convention of the Liberal party in Manitoba:

Some woollen factories are closing up. They say the reason is that they have not sufficient protection. I say it is not. If they cannot live on a 23 per cent tariff, the sooner they shut up the better.

That apparently is the policy of the Minister of the Interior (Hon. Mr. Sifton), and I notice that my hon. friend the member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser), appears to be in entire accord with the policy so laid down.

Mr. FRASER. Hear, hear.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). That policy either is or is not the policy of the cabinet. If it is the policy of the cabinet the sooner we know it the better. If it is not the policy of the cabinet, then the Minister of the Interior ought to resign his position.

Now, let us hear what the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) has to say on this subject. He told us, I think, no later than the month of November last, at a certain gathering at Montreal, that he thought Canadians should stand by Canadian manufacturers:

Why should not our Canadian Customs laws be just as self-protecting as those of the United States, exclaimed Mr. Tarte. I cannot see for the life of me, he added, and there was more applause. A man's first duty is to defend himself. He was brought up in a protectionists school and had not renounced his faith.

The Minister of Public Works, notwithstanding the optimistic view of the condition of the country that is disclosed in the Speech from the Throne, and that has