

cially decadent, is developing more and more into a great exporting nation, and that under the benign influence of the preferential tariff and the wise policy of the Liberal government she will attain to still greater proportions commercially as the years go on.

Before I conclude I feel it my duty to discuss for a moment the vital question of Canadian unity, and in this connection I want to offer this opinion to the House and to the country, that there should be neither east nor west in Canada. I am reminded of a story once told by Abraham Lincoln. He said that he had heard of a certain bridge committee having been appointed to construct a bridge across a deep, wide and dangerous river. Contractors and architects were heard before the committee and after a certain number of meetings of the committee one member named Brown expressed the opinion that they had not made very much progress. He suggested that a certain friend of his, one Jones, be consulted, for Jones, he said, could build a bridge over any river. Jones was called upon and asked whether he could build the bridge across this particular river, and he replied with assurance that if necessary he could not only build the bridge in question but could also build one from there to the infernal regions. Upon his withdrawal from the meeting, Brown, on being interrogated by one of the members of the committee, expressed the view that if Jones said he could build a bridge to the infernal regions he could no doubt carry out the undertaking, but he, Brown, was doubtful about the abutment on the infernal side. Abraham Lincoln, applying the story to the subject he was discussing, said that he had been in touch with public men from all parts of the country and had tried to get their views upon the great question of securing the union of the northern and southern wings of American democracy. He said he was of the opinion that it could be done, but he was rather doubtful about the abutment on the southern side. It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that is pretty much the way it is in Canada. The people of the east feel that unity is quite feasible but for the difficulty of the abutment on the western side. Similarly the people of the west are doubtful about the abutment in the east. Now we must get together and devise some means of bridging east and west, and before this can be done we must banish all sectionalism. Only in this way can we build up a great and united Dominion.

Perhaps I might venture to put in the form of a parable the position in which any gov-

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ernment of the country would find itself under conditions such as prevail at present. Suppose any hon. member in this House had sold all his earthly possessions and had committed the gold he got in return to the care of some man, who, having it upon his person, was given the task of crossing the Niagara gorge on a tight-wire. While that man was balancing himself on the wire would we proceed to badger him, to rock the wire and advise him to bow a little to the east this time, then a little to the west, next a little to the north, and then a little to the south, to stand up straight, to go a little slower or a little faster? I do not think so. We would do our best to encourage him until he had reached the other side in safety. That, Mr. Speaker, is somewhat like our position politically to-day. We have got practically to bridge a political gorge, we have to do that wisely and well, and I believe we shall do so if we remember the substance of the words of Sir Wilfrid Laurier when standing by the bier of Sir John A. Macdonald, the greatest father of confederation:

Let not our grief be anxious grief. Let us rather give to confederation, the instrument which Macdonald brought into existence, our love, our admiration and our solid support. If we do that Canada shall and will live forever.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that if we can unite in such a way as to do our best for the national welfare we will bridge the gorge between the east and the west, and by doing that we will ensure a still greater future for this Dominion, we will make it a still more splendid part of the British crown, and in the words of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, we can rest assured that Canada shall and will live forever.

Mr. J. L. STANSELL (Norfolk-Elgin): Mr. Speaker, the opening part of the speech of the hon. member who has just taken his seat (Mr. McIntosh) reminds me of the practice of promoters of certain wildcat companies in seeking to use the name of an eminently respectable man as an honorary director so that his reputation may inspire confidence in the public to buy the worthless stock placed on the market by those wily gentlemen. The desperate effort of the hon. member to couple the name of Providence with the acts of this government, however much it might, under certain circumstances, increase the use of would not tend to increase the reverence in which that name is held.

While I cannot congratulate the Minister of Finance upon all the provisions of his budget, I can offer him my sincere congratulations on the practical and brief form of its presentation. I go further, Mr. Speaker, I would welcome