

that, I think, guarded the interests of all alike, but it has been rejected. It inconvenienced, no doubt, a large portion of the people of both countries alike. It is a pity that political exigencies should interfere with the results of the labors of the wise and able statesmen who negotiated that treaty. The interest of each country was jealously guarded and watched by its representatives in that conference. Whilst it is a cause for regret that the treaty was not adopted, we occupy this proud position to-day, that we are no more affected by its rejection than are the parties who refused to enforce it. I regret, in common with every British subject in this country, that a threat of non-intercourse was made at that time, still I rejoice to know that that threat had no effect in alienating the loyalty of our people from their Sovereign, but rather had the effect of making us feel our freedom and independence, and our capacity, to use an old saying, to "paddle our own canoe" without the aid of our neighbors.

Now that the elections in the United States are over and political excitement has quieted down I am satisfied that in the near future a conference will be held, at which a treaty will be framed that will be equally advantageous to all parties and to the whole country. I am proud to know that we occupy the position we do at this particular time. Had this threat of non-intercourse been held over us a few years ago the condition of things in Canada, to my mind, would have been very different from what it now is. A few years ago we had no railway communicating with the east and west; our factories were not prosperous; our laborers did not find employment at home, as they do to-day; they had to seek it abroad. Such a threat at that time, no doubt, would have been largely disastrous to our country had it been made. But happening at the time it did we were not in any way inconvenienced by it, and I am glad to know that the markets which our industries have established and the employment which our industries have given to our laborers, and the success of the great railway line across the continent give us an assurance of the greatness and prosperity of our own country that enables us to go on without fear or danger.

I notice that no reference has been made in the Speech to our crop of last year. It is true that in some parts of Canada the harvest was not as bountiful as the husbandmen might reasonably expect, but it is equally true that in other portions the crops were good. With a climate so varied—a country extending, as it does, from the Atlantic to the Pacific—while you have the chilly breezes in the east, you meet, when you cross the continent, the rose in bloom, the perfume of which is fragrant in the air it is hardly possible to have a universally good harvest, and while it may have failed to some extent in parts of Canada, in the great North-West it has not; we have had a magnificent harvest, and, in addition to that, good prices, so that every man you meet is in his person the picture of prosperity, and on his countenance beams the expression of joy and comfort. Mention has been made of the efficiency of the service of the North-West Mounted Police Force. I am not going to dwell on all the matters that have been referred to by the hon. mover of this resolution, but I wish to allude to the police of the North-West. They are a body of military men whom I think in point of intelligence are equal to any military force in the world. That force has been largely improved during the last few years, and, under the management of able officers they have been enabled to command law and order in that country. I may say that they have been enabled to enforce law and order in that country, and you can readily understand that it is a very difficult duty that those men have had to perform in the early settlement of the North-West—a country hundreds of miles in extent, in which in every point of the compass there was a road by which the criminal could escape. Notwithstanding the Indians and the desperadoes that are to be found in every new country in which railroads are being built, and the desperate characters who infested the border, the police succeeded in enforcing law and order in that new territory. If there is one thing more than another that guarantees the efficiency and ability of our Mounted Police to discharge the duties devolving upon them, it is the fact that in so short a time they have been enabled to bring that country under control of the