

Mr. C. A. GEOFFRION, Q.C., having been loudly called for, said that though the only Frenchmen present they were all Canadians, and he hoped the race divisions that had so long existed would soon disappear. He had listened with pleasure to the reminiscences of the French-Canadians by Mr. T. S. Brown, and although the French in this country were originally a conquered race, all that feeling was long since dead, and he had great pleasure in thinking that all were fast becoming simply Canadians. (Applause.)

“TRADE AND COMMERCE.”

Mr. HAGUE said: In proposing the toast of the Trade and Commerce of the Dominion, I desire to preface it by a few words of testimony with regard to the great practical ability which Sir Francis Hincks has displayed on various occasions when in charge of the finances of the Dominion. This was particularly the case in 1870, when differences of opinion had arisen, apparently irreconcilable as to the terms on which the charters of the banks should be renewed. The Government of the day was in considerable perplexity; many of their own followers were entirely opposed to the policy they proposed to pursue. Sir Francis Hincks, on returning from the West Indies, and assuming the office of Finance Minister, devoted his special attention to the solution of this knotty and intricate question, which involved wide and diversified interests, and by his sound experience and practical judgment, was able to suggest a scheme which Parliament accepted as satisfactory, and embodied in legislation. That settlement was of the highest possible value in developing the great resources of Ontario, and in benefiting the commerce of the whole of Canada. With regard to this commerce it is hardly possible for those who have recently arrived in the country to conceive the limited extent to which it had attained previous to the introduction of railways. The old Provinces of Canada occupied a narrow strip of territory to which it had been confined by the astute diplomacy of our immediate neighbours of the United States. It was, indeed, supposed at this time, that they had obtained by such diplomacy all that was worth having of this portion of the continent. Events have proved otherwise. North of line 45, north of the great lakes, and north of line 49 in the North-West, we have proved by experience that a magnificent territory exists. But the opening up of this territory in the early stages was a very slow and laborious business. La Salle and Champlain, two great explorers, whose names are worthy