

not in the acquisition of more territory, but in the maintenance of the world's peace. We must realize that the only way to secure peace is, in quietness of spirit, to make the defence of the Empire so sure that the powers of Europe will see that armaments launched against them, will be courting the fate that awaited the fleets of Phillip and Napoleon, and in giving effect to this policy we would be taking a practical step towards the Parliament of man, the federation of the world. I have much pleasure, Mr. Speaker, in seconding the resolution first moved.

Rt. Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER (Quebec East): Mr. Speaker, though there is very little with which I can agree in the observations with which we have been favoured by the hon. member for Champlain and Verchères (Mr. Rainville) and the hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Nickle), it is certainly my pleasure to offer to them on this occasion the congratulations which the House is always happy to extend to its young members under similar circumstances. I am particularly grateful to the hon. member for Kingston for the very gracious tribute which he has paid to a citizen of Kingston—I mean the late Sir Richard Cartwright—who, for many years, occupied so conspicuous a place in the public life of Canada. The efforts of the hon. the mover and the seconder of the Address were certainly very creditable, all the more creditable because of the fact that, in the Speech which was placed in the mouth of His Royal Highness by his advisers, there was very little from which they could draw any inspiration. The Speech is remarkable both for what it contains and for what it does not contain. From the point of view of the Government the Speech contains just as much as could not be excluded from it, and, from the point of view of the people, there are many subjects of the greatest importance to which the attention of the House should have been directed.

Of course, everybody expected that the Speech would mention the extended trip of His Royal Highness over the whole continent from Prince Edward Island to Prince Rupert and even to the frontier of Alaska, and the House, I am sure, will only be too glad to extend to His Royal Highness its appreciation of his determination to become acquainted with the range of the vast country over which he is called upon to preside.

Everybody expected also that some reference would be made to the good crops with which we have been blessed—not as large as we might have expected, because, as is suggested in the Speech, the almost constant weeping of the heavens since the

21st of September, 1911, has marred what promised to be a most bountiful crop during the past season. But, still, for its abundance we are certainly most grateful to Providence, and, if Providence could be depended upon to market this crop advantageously the farmers of the West would have additional cause for gratefulness to the Heavens, because, under this Administration, Providence is the only power upon which the farmers of the West can rely for the marketing of his crop. The best the Government could do for him was to ask the railways and the Interstate Commerce Commission at Washington to give him a favourable tariff so that he could take his grain over American railways to American shipping ports, with possible injury to his loyalty and the opening of a possible way to annexation, so far at all events, as Tory electors are concerned.

Of course, it was to be expected that we would be asked to ratify the trade agreement which has been made by the Government with a section of the West Indies known as the Bahama Islands, and I can assure my hon. friend that it will be our pleasure on this side to ratify that agreement if the terms are not too outrageous. The principle is right. The effect will not be much, because, after all, the market which is to be opened to the Canadian producer in the Bahamas is not of very great magnitude. The principle is right, I say, because at the present moment there is nothing of which the Canadian people are so much in need as outlets for their productions.

Every year we get from the farm, from the forest, from the mine, from the sea, far more than it is possible for our people in Canada to consume, and hence we have to find markets for the surplus products abroad. How much advantage can we hope to have from the market of the Bahamas? Here is the report of the Department of Trade and Commerce for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1911, and this report shows that the Bahamas imported products to the value of \$1,601,201 and exported products to the value of \$946,175; the total annual trade of the Bahamas being about two and a half million dollars. And this is the market which is offered to the Canadian people. It is as if a thirsty man were to be offered a thimbleful of water to quench his thirst. But with a government of such contracted ideas as that now in power, we must be grateful for small favours and even a thimbleful of water may be welcomed.

We expected, also, that there would be an announcement that a measure for the improvement of highways would be introduced again this year; the measure which was killed last year by the Government, and not by the Senate, as has been stated in the Conservative press. That measure