

to plead pro domo, I would request the re-establishment and maintenance in Joliette of the National Railway shops.

It is an axiom, sir, that nations beget governments which they deserve. I therefore, wish to congratulate the Canadian people on having at the head of the executive as Prime Minister, a champion of our constitutional liberties, a veteran of Canadian politics, a statesman who, owing to his prestige, the magnetism of his eloquence, the charm of his striking personality, engrossed by a clear knowledge of men and things, which he owes to his putting into practice those broad principles of political economy taught by himself in his remarkable treatises: "Industry and Humanity," has been able to direct with credit, in its progress towards a glorious prosperity, the greatest of the British dominions which under his leadership is now ranked as the fifth commercial power of the world. A man of ideals and action, ever trusting in the destinies of his country which he directs with wisdom and a firm hand, the right hon. Prime Minister has been able to inspire all with the same confidence—a precious gift in a leader—by surrounding himself in the cabinet with men of ability, of weight and of the widest influence and outstanding talents in this Dominion.

Mr. Speaker, the great doctrine of Canadian autonomy so brilliantly expounded by the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) and the hon. Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) at the Imperial Conference of 1926 which has given Canada a new status of liberty and autonomy, has already been realized, and we read with some national pride, in the speech from the throne, that the present government has established diplomatic relations with four great powers which dominate the Atlantic and Pacific: to the east, France; to the west, Japan; the United States, our wealthy neighbours to the south, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and the north of Ireland, with whom we have common interests of the greatest import.

Has not the colony of yesterday become a nation in the concert of the great powers of the world and are not great nations represented by ambassadors?

The few acres of snow disdained by the ironical Voltaire of France under Louis XV, have become a beautiful country of freedom, progress and civilization, already well recognized by France of this day whose glory ever since the Marne and Verdun, those "highlights of history," illuminates the world; and it is a ray of this glory that brings us, together

with France's brotherly embrace, the eminent diplomat, His Excellency the French plenipotentiary minister, Jean Knight.

In welcoming to Canada, the Hon. Sir William Clark, High Commissioner of His Majesty's government in the United Kingdom, and the hon. diplomatic representatives of the United States and Japan, and in addressing my very best wishes of success and happiness to the Hon. Peter Larkin, High Commissioner for Canada, in London, and also to their excellencies the plenipotentiary ministers of Canada, the Hon. Philippe Roy to Paris, the Hon. Vincent Massey, to the United States, and the Hon. Herbert Marler, to Japan, I am pleased to acknowledge that the Canadian government, following the example of the governments of those countries, could not make a more judicious choice nor find better qualified and deserving men than those high dignitaries of this state.

It is, sir, this diplomatic intercourse between nations which has in these latter days, enabled the right hon. Prime Minister to journey to Paris in order to have Canada—a powerful contributor to the League of Nations—participate in the many-sided treaty Briand-Kellogg, which affords a guarantee of universal peace and a tie of friendship and mutual sympathy among nations. Let me express the ardent wish that this parliament will approve with enthusiasm and unanimously this treaty destined to outlaw war and which henceforth I shall designate as the King-Briand-Kellogg treaty.

The notable statements contained in the speech from the throne describing all the activities of the Canadian people in every sphere of life and bearing witness to a prosperity ever increasing, is of a nature to reassure the people's anxiety and restore their confidence. The year 1928 has seen the crowning of these sixty years of progress—at times temporarily paralyzed by crises without much consequences—that the Canadian people celebrated with so much pomp during the patriotic festivities of the Diamond Jubilee of Confederation.

For the first time, the wheat crop exceeds half a billion bushels, while other crops as a whole have been bountiful. I further note with pleasure in the speech from the throne that the government will submit to parliament, as a measure of relief to agriculture, its plan for the carrying out of the provisions contained in the rural credit act.

Helping the fundamental industry of agriculture while the work on the sub-soil, that is the mines, is rapidly developing, is not that