

towards the safeguarding of Canadian interests, was sufficient guarantee to us that nothing in the outcome of the conference of 1907 would in the least counteract the aspirations of our people. It will be recorded in history, and to our credit, that the foremost part in the work of that conference was taken by the Prime Minister of Canada.

If we have reason to rejoice in consequence, we should also rejoice because self-government has not thereby in any way been interfered with, and also because our representative at the conference has suggested a plan for the establishment of a line of steamers likely to provide more efficient means of transportation between England, Australia, New Zealand and our own country. Let us hope that this plan will be before long carried out.

Previous to the opening of that conference, people wondered whether England would continue as heretofore to be content with the help voluntarily tendered by her colonies in the wars waged for the defence of the Empire, or whether she would determine in advance and for ever the shares to be contributed by the colonies. Our Prime Minister has given the answer to that question in terms which are considered to-day as expressing the relations which should exist between the Empire and the self-governing states: 'British colonies, he said, enjoy self-government, thanks to England's liberality, and for no consideration whatever should we give up the smallest particle of that self-government.' Hereafter, then, the self-governing states shall remain free to contribute to the defence of the Empire in the measure which they think fit. Nothing has been changed in the state of things which existed before the conference and the danger apprehended by some has been conjured for ever, let us hope, through the farsightedness of the present Prime Minister.

The imperialist press on both sides of the ocean has pronounced the Canadian Prime Minister responsible for the failure of the scheme which they advocated; they have criticised him sharply on that account. It is only fair that the partisans of self-government should loudly proclaim what nobody can deny, that it is solely owing to his unique prestige, to his great experience that the autonomy of our country has been preserved in its entirety.

The government, through two of its most distinguished members, the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Mr. Brodeur) and the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), has just concluded with France a treaty, concerning which we have great cause to rejoice. We should rejoice, in the first place, because Canada has in the course of these negotiations taken the stand of an almost independent nation, since it has itself freely laid down all its terms and conditions. As for England, her

part in the matter has taken the form of gracious acquiescence rather than that of an assertion of her sovereign will. We should also rejoice because that treaty opens up a new market for our trade and our industries. Of course, the task of developing agriculture and laying down rules for the utilization of the natural products of the country rests primarily with the provincial governments. But it is through the exportation of such products to foreign markets, where they bring the highest prices, that wealth will come to our country. Now, it is the duty of the Dominion government to find new channels for our trade; the more numerous these channels, the more will producers be in a position to reap such profits as may reasonably be expected, by selecting the most advantageous among the markets secured to them by the government.

Then again—and this will be my concluding remark—I rejoice over the conclusion of this treaty because it will tend to strengthen the *entente cordiale*, the friendly relations between the two nations. Since our great Sovereign has proclaimed in no uncertain terms that all nations are sisters and should love each other, it would seem that the bonds uniting the various peoples inhabiting our country have been drawn more closely together.

The royal utterances impressed more strongly on their minds the truth which they already perceived, that called as they are to live side by side in this land of Canada, and to build up by their united efforts one same country whose greatness they wish to ensure, they cannot hope to attain that object, otherwise than by leaving to all races the greatest measure of liberty, and by respecting the rights of each and every one of them. In that way do nationalities truly manifest love for one another. Of all the self-governing states which make up the British Empire, Canada is the only one which can claim as ancestors the two greatest nations in the world; England and France. England's supremacy in industry, commerce and navigation cannot be gainsaid. France's supremacy in literary, artistic and scientific pursuits cannot be denied. Let the attainments which distinguish both nations flourish in Canada, and there will spring up a nation without a superior in the world, since it will present, as it were the synthesis of the characteristics of both France and England.

I am not, as you perceive, in sympathy with those who wish to see, in the course of time, only one nationality survive in Canada, all the various races being blended together into one. Let us rather preserve our distinctive features. It would be unwise to obliterate them. Indeed, humanity has too varied and too complex a task to perform, for one people to accomplish it single-handed. Each race, with its peculiarities and attainments con-