

A word should be said in regard to the fact that in the fiscal year just closed, Canada reached the high water mark of her trade with other countries. This country to-day is no longer content to sit quietly by while other countries are gathering up the trade markets of the world. Our people and merchants are seeking every port and every country for their merchandise; and the present Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Foster), not now in his place in this House, has in his portfolio and position no sinecure although it may have been created as such. No; his office is a living vital factor in the commerce and trade of this country, making for the upbuilding of Canada, so far as its trade and commerce with other countries is concerned. Canada is not doing business in any back street to-day. Canada to-day is just leaping into prominence. She is commanding now the admiration of the world and sending her products to all corners of the world; her merchants are competing on equal terms with big merchants all over the wide world. And what is the result? The result is the building up in Canada of the happy home of the labourer, the mechanic and the artisan to make this country great that we live in and that we of both political parties are here to do our best to serve.

We in Canada, in common with all the countries of the world, have felt some of the financial stress, the tightness of money and financial stringency prevailing everywhere during last year. It would be folly for any man to stand in his place here and say that Canada to-day was not feeling the touch of hard times, to assert that Canada was not touched by the tightness of money as every other country in the world was touched; but I know of no country in the world that has stood up against those hard times and that period of money tightness in the way Canada did. That is absolutely true of the Maritime Provinces, and New Brunswick especially, the province from which I come. In our province, we never had a better business or a better Christmas trade or easier money than we had in 1913. In a year when there was money tightness and financial depression all over the world, it was fortunate that we had in Western Canada—and not only in Western Canada but in Eastern Canada as well, humbler perhaps in production but none the less a producing element in this country—I say it was fortunate that we had in Western Canada the most bountiful wheat crop that this country ever knew. It was eminently fortunate also that we had

transportation facilities such that the wheat crop was moved as it never was moved before in the history of this country, making the most prompt money return to the farmers of the middle West at a time when such was the best thing that could happen to them and the best thing that could happen to Canada generally. I do not know that I may claim any credit for the Government or party which I support, because of the condition of the transportation facilities. But I do know that if the crop had not been moved the people would have been hammering at the doors of this Government and worrying this Government to death because it was not moved expeditiously.

Perhaps the most important subject mentioned in the speech from the Throne is the Redistribution Bill. Certainly it is a matter of vital importance to the province from which I come, and to those other provinces down by the sea. I just wish for a moment to discuss the Redistribution Bill, not in any narrow, sectional or provincial aspect, because, Sir, I take it that when a man enters this House—or whether he does not for that matter—whether he comes from one province or another, he is a Canadian first of all. He forgets the narrow boundaries of provinces, and remembers that he is a Canadian and has regard only for the upbuilding of this nation.

I may be permitted to discuss just for a moment the question of redistribution from the point of view of a Maritime provinces man. If we follow the same principle that was followed after the census of 1891 and 1901, the representation of the Maritime provinces after the next Redistribution Bill will be: Nova Scotia, 16; New Brunswick, 11; Prince Edward Island, 3. That is, we will have 30 representatives in this Parliament where, at the time of Confederation, we had 40. I want to frankly admit to this House, and to you, Mr. Speaker, that from a legal point of view we have absolutely no status. The decision of the Supreme Court of Canada, affirmed by the Privy Council, has settled, so far as present decisions are concerned, that we cannot hold our original representation, but I submit that though we have not a strong or in fact any legal status, we have the strongest moral and equitable standing. It is undoubtedly correct that at the time of Confederation the Fathers of Confederation had no thought in their minds of a re-adjustment downward. The only thought in their minds was a re-adjustment upward. They