

there with respect to certain lands in the railway belt and the Peace river block. Delegation after delegation had come here from British Columbia to negotiate with the federal government in an effort to get back those lands which they felt ought to belong to the province. We have succeeded in making an agreement with British Columbia in regard to that matter which will be submitted to the house.

There remains the question of certain water-powers in their relation to navigation on the great rivers. That question has remained unsettled for a long time. We sought a solution by judicial determination but were unable to get anything effected in that way. We have taken up the question by conference. As yet the work of conference is not complete, but I am hopeful that before very long that question too will be satisfactorily settled. In other words, we found on coming into office, and since, that there have been a series of questions affecting the relations between the provinces and the Dominion; right across this country from coast to coast, the maritime provinces, the older provinces, the western provinces, and British Columbia all had their problems, and we have grappled with them all in a spirit that was broad and liberal and generous. We have never asked the question: what is the party with which we are dealing? We have dealt with Conservative governments, Liberal governments, and Progressive governments, and with all these governments alike we have been able to a greater or lesser extent to work out a solution of these problems which were causing a lack of harmony within the jurisdiction of the Dominion as a whole. That, Mr. Speaker, is the real significance of the reference of the speech in that regard. A similar effort has been made with respect to the relations between this country and other countries concerning problems that have come up at the League of Nations, imperial conferences and elsewhere; in all these cases we have sought a solution in a manner which would make for harmony, unity and goodwill, and in all these particulars we have been in very large measure successful.

Mr. ROBERT GARDINER (Acadia): Mr. Speaker, permit me to take this opportunity of congratulating the mover and the seconder of the address in reply to the speech from the throne on the quality of their speeches. I listened very attentively to the mover (Mr. Gray), and I must confess that he appeared to me to be a born optimist. He gave credit to the Liberal party for everything that is good in this country, and had it not been for the fact that later the Prime Minister

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

stated that the hon. member for West Lambton was a lawyer, I would have said that he must come from western Canada and be a grain grower—his optimism is so characteristic.

I would take this opportunity too of congratulating our new Minister of Finance (Mr. Dunning). I hope his health and strength will enable him to perform the arduous duties of his new office. I have followed his career for many years and I am very hopeful that with his appointment to this important position it will be quite possible to bring the relations between western and eastern Canada to a higher degree of harmony than has prevailed heretofore.

I also take this opportunity of congratulating our new Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Crerar) upon his again taking a seat in the house. Nobody anticipated this a year ago—at least I did not. I am not going to say that I always agree with the policies of the hon. gentleman, nevertheless I am glad to see him here again because I believe all his actions are characterized by sincerity. I have heard him criticised very severely by farmers in western Canada for some things he has done and for others that he has left undone, but knowing him as I do, I believe absolutely in his sincerity. But let this house make no mistake: he does not represent western agriculture. The hon. minister has been away from the farm for many years past; indeed he has been living in Winnipeg for probably twenty years or more, and we all realize the influence of environment. To a very large extent he has lost the farmers' viewpoint, and notwithstanding all the Prime Minister may say, the hon. Minister of Railways in my judgment does not represent the policies demanded by western organized agriculture.

With these few remarks, Mr. Speaker, I desire to turn to the speech from the throne. The very first paragraph is a eulogy of the prosperity which we have been enjoying. I think in the speech from the throne last session we had similar references in this regard, and at that time I think I stated that so far as prosperity in Canada was concerned, while it was quite true that certain sections of the people enjoyed tremendous prosperity, yet when we got down to the masses, the workers and the farmers, there was no such prosperity in evidence at all. I maintain the same view to-day. The Prime Minister quoted many authorities in support of what he considered to be the prosperous condition of this country. But whom did he quote? Bank presidents, bank managers, and men of that