

Another statement which has impressed me is this. Last year we had 15,116 immigrants from Scotland, a country with a population of 4,000,000; and we had 9,078 immigrants from Northern Ireland, with a population of 1,250,000. If we had received immigrants from England in the same proportion to population, instead of receiving only 2,835, we should have received 110,465. This naturally provokes the question: How is it that Scotland and Northern Ireland should respond so much more readily than England to an appeal which was made to them all? I mention that fact simply to show that there must be some cause for this difference which cannot be laid at the door of Canada.

My honourable friend (Hon. Mr. Willoughby) has not spoken of the fact that we have opened legations abroad. I simply mention it so that I may have the opportunity of answering the right honourable the junior member from Ottawa (Right Hon. Sir George E. Foster), who, in a very brilliant speech on the Address last Session, recalled the fact that at the Conference of 1917 some principles had been laid down affirming the autonomy of Canada and its right to share in the administration of foreign affairs and to be heard in the solution of international problems. The right honourable gentleman suggested that the Government had perhaps been hasty in seizing the right to develop its own system abroad, but had been somewhat slow in following the decision of that Conference, which suggested that some method should be found for closer co-operation among the various members of the Empire. I desire to draw the attention of this Chamber to the fact that concurrently an effort was made to establish closer relations between Great Britain and Canada by the suggestion that Great Britain have direct representation in Ottawa.

I have been struck with the fact that, for the first time since Confederation, Great Britain is officially represented in Canada. We had His Excellency the Governor General before, but he was here as a representative of the Crown. It is true that his office was used as a channel of communication, but there was no initiative on his part. No action was expected of him relating to matters which interest London and Ottawa. For the first time we have among us, in the person of the British High Commissioner, a representative of Great Britain who is following all our activities and acting as a liaison officer between the British Government and the Dominion of Canada. I desire, in making this statement, to show that while we have developed our system of representation abroad, we have formed a link which draws us much closer to

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Great Britain that we ever were before. I have very great confidence that it will be to the advantage of both countries.

My right honourable friend remembers that when Sir Austen Chamberlain passed through Canada he expressed satisfaction at the entry of our country into the international field, and said he hoped our co-operation would be of some help to Great Britain and to the British Empire.

Hon. G. D. ROBERTSON: Honourable gentlemen, may I associate myself with the remarks of the honourable leader of the Government, and my honourable leader on this side of the House, in extending felicitations to the mover and the seconder of the Address.

I was much interested in the very instructive remarks of the mover on the subject of trade with the West Indies, and I am sure that all honourable gentlemen who heard him are very grateful for the information which they received. I noticed, however, that my honourable friend omitted to deal with more than two subjects. That may have been because he thought there was no necessity to deal with more, or because it was difficult to find a defence for some other parts of the Speech.

I intend to deal, not with every item in the Speech, but with some of its contents that I think are of very vital, indeed fundamental, interest to the large majority of the people resident in this country.

My honourable friend the leader of the Government has stated here, and it was stated in another place, in the opening of a number of speeches, that Canada has enjoyed unprecedented prosperity. We all rejoice in the fact that Canada is prospering, perhaps, to an even greater degree than many other countries, and because many of our resources are undeveloped, there are ahead of us numerous opportunities which, if properly attended to, will result in continued prosperity. But I do think, honourable gentlemen, that nations, like individuals and families, are apt to measure their spending capacity by what they conceive to be their earning powers. We should endeavour to maintain a true perspective of our national situation, so that we may not be disillusioned at some future date. In considering Canada's prosperity and the advances that the country has been making, I do not think it is fair to judge a Government by its performance for one year only. This Government has been administering the affairs of Canada now for seven years, and