

to be drawn upon during times of scarcity. In a recent letter to the *Times*, he has further amplified and explained his views on this aspect of the question.

Immediately after the fiscal debate, and during lunch with Sir Edward Buck in the Windsor Hotel, where we were both staying, Mr. Murray, the Congress Secretary, asked me to speak for India in reply to the toast of The Empire at the banquet given to the delegates the same evening by the Montreal Board of Trade. I could not very well refuse the invitation, which I regarded as a high compliment paid to our Chamber. The toast was proposed by the Canadian Premier, Sir Wilfred Laurier, in an eloquent speech. After Sir W. H. Holland had responded for the Mother-Country, I was called upon, and spoke in the following terms:—

"I desire to associate myself with what Sir William Holland has said so gracefully. I feel very unequal to undertake to deal at all adequately with this toast. The position I have the honour to occupy to-night inspires me with none all the more profound because I have to follow men so eloquent and distinguished. I am relieved to think that at this late hour you would not tolerate more than a few words from me. I should like, however, to direct your attention for a moment to the way in which India contributes to the maintenance of Britain's position as a world Power. India, with her population of 300,000,000, all of whom will have to be specially considered in any scheme or system of preferential tariffs, is really the predominant partner in this great British Empire on which the sun never sets, and which is laved by the waters of every ocean. Many of you will doubtless recollect that in the *Times*, a few months back, there appeared a remarkable series of articles under the heading "The Strategic Front." The centre of that front was shown to be India flanked by South Africa and China. The correctness of this view was very strikingly illustrated at the beginning of hostilities in South Africa, when the timely despatch of troops and supplies from India saved the situation in Natal. They were troops from India that won Dundee and garrisoned Ladysmith and kept the Flag flying there. India is always ready for contingencies and emergencies.

The fact that an assembly like this is possible is ample security that Britain's supremacy as a commercial Power will not be allowed to grow dim. The Old Country and the Colonies will see to it that the naval supremacy of the Empire is maintained. And India, with her army of 250,000 men, recruited from fighting races like Sikhs, Gurkhas, Pathans, Beluchis, always ready for field service in any part of the world, may be depended upon to keep the Empire to the front among the nations in the matter of military power.

The great Delhi Durbar, the creation of the genius of the Viceroy, Lord Curzon, who is entitled to unstinted praise for the way in which that unexampled undertaking was designed and carried out, in which some of you may have had the privilege of participating last January, proved the loyalty and solidarity of India. There, for the first time since the world began, were gathered together in peace and amity every chief and ruler in India to do homage to our King, the first Emperor of united India. It was a moving spectacle.

If this Congress has been the means of awakening in any of you, and quickening in others, an interest in the problems and needs of India, it will have done a service to the cause of an Empire fraught with the most beneficent consequences. Three hundred years ago, when the Red man roamed undisturbed in this great land, India was in possession of a civilization already ancient. The great and