

The Hudson Bay Railway.

The west is very much concerned at the present time about the building of the Hudson Bay railway. There is not absolute unanimity of opinion in this country as to the relief that will be brought to the people of the west by the construction of that road. I hope it may bring to them all the relief they expect, but beyond question, in justice to the west it ought to be pushed to completion without any delay. Further than that, I think the government ought to have regard to the wishes of the west as to the operation of that road. It should not be placed under the absolute and sole control of any one transportation line, but it ought to be operated by means of a commission so as to give to every one of the great railways of the west equal rights over it, and to give to the people of this country complete control of rates. If the government are prepared to deal with the construction of the Hudson Bay railway along these lines, they will find the members on this side of the House prepared to give their proposals a warm support.

Terminal Elevators.

Then, there was the question of terminal elevators which the right hon. gentleman found confronting him when he went west last year. I have spoken of that already during this session. I believe the government ought to take steps to operate these terminal elevators, and I see no reason why that could not be done by a commission. It may be said that is a great undertaking; but is it a greater or more important undertaking than the establishment of the Railway Commission of Canada, with all the enormous powers devolving upon that body? Suppose we had a commission to take charge of these elevators, so that there would be absolutely no question of the grading of the wheat that went through them, and no injustice done to western producers of grain, I venture to say that the people of eastern Canada would support the government in a proposal of that kind. I advocated in this House in 1903 the equipment of every one of our great ports in Canada as a national port. I believe that was a wise policy, and I believe it would be one step along that line for the government to take charge of these terminal elevators and operate them under such conditions as would satisfy the farmers of the west.

Cold Storage and Abattoirs.

Then, Sir, as to cold storage and refrigeration and the establishment of abattoirs

in the west, we on this side of the House have already stated our position. Considering that we have this great gap of 800 miles of uninhabited country between the east and west of Canada, I think it is worth while for the east to make every reasonable concession to the west in order that there may be no apparent divergence of interest between the east and the west, but that east and west, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, may join together in the upbuilding of our great federation.

Take Time for Consideration.

I trust that the Prime Minister will not proceed hastily with these reciprocity proposals. The country has had very little time to consider them. As far as I am concerned, my opinion with respect to them has, I trust, been made fairly clear to this House this afternoon. I think the Prime Minister would do well to withdraw them from the consideration of the House at the present time, and await some further developments.

Keep Canada for the Canadians.

We have begun a great work in this country. Two great races whose mother tongues are spoken in this parliament came into the inheritance of this great country under the providence of God. Our fathers endured many hardships and made wonderful sacrifices in planting their homes in this then western wilderness. In times of peril both races have poured out their blood without stint in defence of their common country. In the work of upbuilding a strong nation and a great civilization under the British flag, on the northern half of this continent, they have laboured side by side with mutual sympathy and with high purpose. The heaviest burdens have been lifted, the greatest obstacles have been overcome, the most difficult part of the task has been accomplished. I trust that the Canadian people will not lightly relinquish the task to which their energies and the energies of their fathers have been consecrated for so many years. I trust that the standard will not be thrown aside and the retreat sounded when the battle is more than half won. The self-denials, the sacrifices, the patriotism, demanded of us to-day, in order that this nation may maintain and carry out the ideals and the purposes for which it was called into existence, are as nothing to those which were required of our fathers who founded this confederation. Loyalty to their memory and to the ideals which they consecrated demands that we should continue with firm heart and unabated hope upon the path on which we entered nearly fifty years ago.