

States and three to represent the government of Canada. The instructions to the commission shall be laid on the table at an early day; but in the meantime, to give all the information to my hon. friend to which he is entitled, I may mention the names of the commissioners who are to represent the government of Canada—Mr. Maybee, K.C., an eminent lawyer of the city of Toronto; Mr. Louis Coste, of the Department of Public Works, an eminent hydraulic engineer, and Mr. King, the chief geographer of the Department of the Interior. These gentlemen are to represent Canada at the conference, and we have reason to hope that they will bring in a report which will be satisfactory. I may say that this commission has no power to decide anything. It is not to lay down the basis of a treaty. It is simply to study the conditions and to report whether it is possible to devise remedies to meet an existing evil.

My hon. friend has entered into a discussion of questions which I do not think it advisable for me to discuss at this moment. He has referred, for instance, to the defence of the country. This is a matter which may engage discussion later on, when my hon. friend the Minister of Militia and Defence is in his seat. As to the question of the tariff and the question of the Audit Act, I can only say to my hon. friend that at this moment I do not propose to discuss these questions. They will be dealt with fully, and to his satisfaction, I hope—though perhaps this is too much to expect—when the Minister of Finance is in his seat. Unfortunately, he has been obliged to go to Europe for domestic reasons.

I may say, Mr. Speaker, that we do not propose this session to have any very serious or important legislation beyond the Act with reference to the Northwest Territories. I agree to everything that has been said by my hon. friend as to the importance of that measure, though I would not subscribe to all his contentions. We propose, if possible, to have a short session. We have not been blessed with a short session for a long time. We have had a session of seven months and another session of five months; but I think, if my hon. friend will make a bargain with me, to make an effort to stop the flow of eloquence on both sides of the House, to keep within bounds, we may hope to see summer in the country, or spring by the time the sugar flows.

Mr. FOSTER. I will go to the sugaring-up with you.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. We meet at this time under a combination of happy auspices. We have not only a new parliament, but a new Governor General. It has become a trite observation that Canada has been exceptionally fortunate in the character of those who have been entrusted with the high prerogative of representing the

Crown in this the first of all the British dominions beyond the seas. Our present Governor General has been received with perhaps more favour than any of his predecessors, and there is cause for this. His Excellency has the good fortune to bear a name dear to all the friends of liberty and constitutional government in every part of the empire, and especially in Canada. The illustrious name of Grey recalls the name of the great man whose persistent energy wrung from unwilling peers and a reluctant king the measure of reform which changed the face of England, which averted a revolution, and which transferred the government from a class to the nation. The name of Grey also recalls to the people of this country the illustrious names of Durham and Elgin—the name of the man whose bold genius conceived and designed the policy which has revolutionized the colonial system of England by transferring the government of Canada from the hands of a grasping oligarchy to the people themselves; and the name of the man whose strong courage carried that policy to a successful issue. Therefore, I say we meet under a combination of happy circumstances, and there is reason to hope and expect that the illustrious name of Grey will be associated with still further blessings to the people of Canada.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN (South York). Mr. Speaker, it is not my intention to continue the line of banter which has more or less characterized the preceding speeches. I intend just for a few moments to ask the attention of the House to some incidents of the recent election in this country. If there is one thing that may be taken as a lesson to us from that election, it is this—that in it there disappeared, especially in my own province of Ontario—a province which I am glad to say did not send a majority in favour of the present government, as was stated by the hon. member for Picton (Mr. Macdonald)—a number of gentlemen who forgot why they had been sent to parliament. They had forgotten what representative institutions in this country mean. They had forgotten that they were sent here to represent the people. They thought they were sent here to represent the interests of great corporations, and their constituents found them out, and they have disappeared from the public life of this country.

Without presuming to give any advice to the new men in this House, I would say to them, no matter on what side they may be, that more and more is it becoming incumbent on the representatives of the people to give some concern to the interests of the people rather than the interests of corporations. Only the other day I met a very worthy friend of mine who occupied a seat in this House in the last parliament, who came from Ontario, and supported hon. gen-