

Empire to which we are proud to belong. We are here from Australia to endeavour to work with our Canadian and other colleagues for our mutual benefit, feeling assured that everything which enhances the progress and prosperity of the Colonies must add to the wealth and the power of England. We are assembled to endeavour to bridge over the great stretch of ocean that divides the Colonies in the South from Canada. We are here to endeavour by mutual concession and arrangements, and it may be sacrifices, to lessen space and, as it were, to annihilate time. We are here to endeavour to arrange for the exchange of products to the advantage of all, and by telegraphic communication to draw closer a union and to cement in every way we can an intercourse of trade and friendship which happily has not begun to-day, which will, we trust, in future expand and extend until the Pacific has become the highway between Canada and the mother country."

Hon. F. B. Suttor said: "Perhaps I might express the hope that, by its position and the action it has taken in relation to the present Conference, Canada may be the central swivel in that chain bringing us together in common interests which will prevent any knotting or friction, and prove a source of encouragement to all the great Colonies of England to work harmoniously together."

Sir Henry De Villiers, of Cape Colony, said: "Here in this country you have solved problems which with us are still unsolved. You have solved the great question of Confederation and you have known how to reconcile local autonomy with a central administration of affairs of general concern. There is one experience which is common to both, and that is that we have two nationalities, the Dutch and the English, just as you have two nationalities, the French and the English, which it is the part of wise statesmanship to fuse. And there is another point of agreement between the Cape of Good Hope and the Dominion of Canada and that is, whatever nationality we belong to, we are all united in the most perfect and sincere loyalty to the good and great Queen, who for so many years has ruled over her vast Empire of which the Colonies represented at this Conference form a part."

Hon. Simon Fraser said: "That though a native of Canada, he had been in Australia for 40 years. We have wondered over and over again at the progress made by this great Dominion, and I can say that although the progress is marvellous and the people and the government who have had the courage, the daring I might say, to carry out such a successful policy should be congratulated and complimented; still I may say that quite such a future is in store for us in Australia, should we have the good fortune and good sense to follow the example so well set us by Canada."

Hon. A. J. Thynne said: "I think up to the present moment our bond of union with Canada has been that feeling of sympathy which existed in Canada and that feeling of sympathy which existed in Australia towards our common object—the Mother Country. But that bond of sympathy will be none the less effective if our people, our merchants and traders are interested directly in the course of trade between the Colonies, are interested in our investments, in the development of commercial intercourse and in the establishment of cable communication; and I trust that we shall make our heartiest efforts towards bringing about the additional bonds which these objects would involve."