

my part, I prefer the selfishness of the man who is willing, for the sake partly of gain, to build up large industries employing hundreds of work people, and thus contributing to the material prosperity of his country and of those around him, to that of the man who, for the sake of saving a small percentage on his clothing and luxuries, is willing that all the industries of the country be sacrificed. I much prefer, gentlemen, the so-called selfishness of the protectionist to that of the free trader. Well, gentlemen, the free trader has about given up trying to convince the people of Canada of the wisdom of this country being ruled by the theories of a Cobden Club, and now recommends Commercial Union as the great want of the country. While we yield to no country as to the activity, energy and ability of our manufacturers and the intelligence of our mechanics, yet we do object to being placed in competition with the manufacturers of the United States, who, for the past thirty years, have been fostering their native industries by every means in their power. We contend that the country is prosperous, manufacturing is developing as fast as the wants of the country demand, and manufacturers are suiting their industries to the needs of the country; and it would be folly to interfere with this steady growth. Gentlemen, we think this country is just as prosperous as that of our neighbors across the line, and we protest against having any exclusive trade relations with them that we cannot extend to our mother beyond the seas. We don't wish to place our skilled operatives in competition with the cheap labor of Europe. We prefer that they should occupy a much higher plane, both socially and materially, so that each and all may aspire to be employers, and may be encouraged in their ambition by seeing this taking place almost daily around them. Success has attended in the past our efforts for a protective tariff, but it does not follow that we should now take it for granted that there is no need for a strong organization. You must reach the people