

tinental slope to the north without interruption of mountain range, and which can be reached most conveniently and economically by railway communication from the head of Lake Superior at Duluth and from St. Paul and Chicago. This being the case there are these great natural resources which invite communication, which invite trade, and which invite the breaking down of the barriers that exist between the two countries, and the absurd prejudices, such as are entertained by my hon. friend who interrupted me a few minutes ago. There is in progress at present a great movement for interesting American capital in industrial and financial operations in the Dominion. I have friends in the west. I hear from them frequently, and I learn that the movement which is set on foot for removal to the Canadian North-west promises to become an exodus. I hear that the banks of Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota and the Dakotas are being depleted of their deposits by men who are investing this money in the Canadian North-west. Those who can sell their Illinois farms for \$100 an acre, their Iowa farms for \$70 an acre, and their Kansas and Nebraska farms for \$40 or \$50 an acre, and invest this money in the Canadian North-west in land equally as good or better at \$5 or \$10 an acre, are appreciating the advantages of that exchange. They are selling their lands and flocking to our North-west by the thousands. They are a class of settlers who understand the conditions and are familiar with the work they have to perform. They have gone through the experience once and can go through it again. And a farmer with a half a dozen sons, can sell his farm in the United States, and with the proceeds give each of his sons just as large a farm in Canada as the one he left. I tell you, Sir, we are having a movement in the investment of American capital in our country of which we do not realize the magnitude. And we want to place ourselves in a position to promote and avail ourselves of the results of this movement, and nothing will promote it more rapidly than the adoption of reciprocity between the two countries. Our vast resources are attracting attention. The period of narrowness and exclusiveness and bitterness and ignorance, which characterized certain portions of the public in both of these countries is passing away, and in place of it is coming a broader spirit, a Catholic spirit, a spirit of toleration, a spirit of mutual conciliation which will bear excellent results in the interests of both countries. New conditions, vast possibilities confront us. We hardly stop to realize their magnitude. When this North-west, where hundreds of thousands are to settle in the near future, with its three hundred millions acres of arable land, of which three millions are now under cultivation, this North-west that can increase its production a hundred-

fold—when the resources of this country are developed, when its fields wave with harvests, when its surface is covered by farms and towns and cities, then we will see the fruition of the promise we have today, and those who have the prescience to look into the future with a comprehension of what is coming, will see their dreams realized, and a great nation established on the northern portion of this continent. We will then look back to the past—if we live to see that day—and wonder at the narrowness and littleness and bitterness displayed by people in the old days before the broad horizon had opened before them. Nevertheless, so long as the present American tariff conditions continue, this rosy picture will not be realized as soon as it otherwise would. If we cannot get a treaty such as I think we can, we have simply to do what I said would be the alternative. We have simply to mould into shape our own resources, work out our own destiny, and build up as we best may the superstructure of our own nation. And whatever may be the outcome, whether we get that mitigation of trade conditions which we hope for, or whether we find that these trade conditions are to be perpetuated, I do not apprehend that we will find Liberals in this House seriously disagreeing. There is a good deal of latitude of opinion allowed here, and the government, while it permits this, will in my opinion, be confronted by a condition of things that will result in popular demand of such volume and potency in connection with this question of trade relations as will lead the government to bow to the wishes of the people. We will mould our course by the developments that are confronting us, that are near at hand, and I repeat, I approve most highly the course of the government in waiting the development of events, in waiting the few months that will enable us to judge definitely and absolutely what is the proper course to be taken. Canada desires to participate in the commercial activities of this continent. If we can obtain this privilege we shall have to shape a destiny of our own. The parting of the ways is just ahead. Providence will decide the matter. We cannot tell what the decision will be, or upon which of the paths we shall enter, whether upon the path of participation of the benefits of free and liberal trade relations covering Anglo-Saxon America, or the path of exclusion, imitation of the policy of the other country, and retaliation upon them for what they have perpetuated and imposed upon us. Let us await the future calmly, resolutely, if you will, without fear or care as to what the result shall be, determined that we will be governed by those conditions and developments, and will view from a patriotic standpoint whatever, in our belief, the necessity of our country requires from us in the line of action.