

that country nearly \$28,000,000 of agricultural and animal products. The farmer is protected in this country to a certain extent. He should be protected to a greater extent, and the Conservative party will be prepared, upon attaining power, to give him a further measure of protection which in its opinion the interests of the country demands.

The tide of industrial expansion seems to be at its height on this continent. It has been expected that its ebb would come before this. It has not yet come, but it will come as surely as the ebb follows the flow of the ocean tide. All business men are agreed on that. When it does come, the protection afforded to Canadian industries by the present ad valorem tariff will decrease with the decrease in prices. In many respects it is insufficient at present. It will be utterly insufficient then, when the time comes that we shall have to face the slaughtering in the Canadian market of goods from the United States. Have we no suffering industries at the present time? The hon. gentleman says that the time is inopportune for making any change in the tariff. What about our woollen industries, our cotton factories, our iron and steel industries? Do these not feel too keenly the stress of foreign competition? We have the lead mining industry of British Columbia crushed by the united effects of an American combine, an American prohibitive tariff and a non-protecting Canadian tariff. The most magnificent mining country in the world is practically paralyzed for the want of protection, while my hon. friend says that we have not time to deal with this question at this session—we have more pressing and weighty matters in our hands, and these gentlemen had better come another year. Would it mean nothing to the immigrants who are pouring into the North-west to have 100,000 people added to the population of British Columbia, engaged in the lead mining and other legitimate industries which ought to be built up in that province? An example of the value of a home market is found in the North-west at the present time. The people are pouring into that country, and we are finding there for the manufactures and agricultural products of eastern Canada a better market than they had before, while at the same time various industries in British Columbia have been stimulated

by the fact of that immigration. These movements react on each other.

What is our position with respect to the United States? We buy from them about \$72,000,000 of manufactured goods, and we sell to them \$6,024,000. We buy from them \$28,000,000 of agricultural products and products of animals, and we sell to them of the same articles less than \$8,000,000. All our producers and manufacturers are confronted in that country by a practically prohibitive tariff. I maintain that the Finance Minister does not take the proper view of the situation when he says that we had better postpone the revising of our tariff until after we have negotiated on trade matters with the United States. Their tariff is practically double ours, and we with a tariff half as high as theirs are going to negotiate with them. What is the objection to putting our tariff on a better and fairer basis first, and then going to negotiate with the United States? Why do we have to wait until my hon. friend the Prime Minister gets further letters from Senator Fairbanks in reference to resuming those negotiations which I thought from the right hon. gentleman's remarks in Montreal about a year ago had come for ever to an end? I say it is bad policy first to give to the United States such concessions as we gave in 1897, to continue these concessions to the present year, and then to say that we will avoid touching our tariff at all in order that when we come to negotiate with the United States we may go there handicapped. No, the stronger policy is the better one. Let us first deal with our tariff from the standpoint of our own interests, recognizing that in doing so we must have regard to certain conditions existing in other countries. Then, having dealt with our tariff in a strong and bold way, if the United States desire to negotiate, we can inform them that we are at their service and ready to take up the matter at any time they may desire.

Sir we propose at this juncture to renew our declaration of policy of last year with regard to the tariff. As I have already said, the question of preferential trade will be dealt with later. The resolution which I wish to move is as follows:

That all the words after the word 'that' in the proposed motion be left out, and the following substituted therefor:—