

of the west. The government, with the concurrence of the Minister of the Interior, one of the best qualified men for directing the affairs of the west, is prepared to increase and improve our immigration service.

The quinquennial census authorized by the Autonomy Acts, of the provinces, is nearly completed. That census proves that they are entitled to increased representation in the House of Commons.

I now come to deal with one of the most important questions which we will have to consider during the present session. The speech from the Throne refers to a Bill having for its object the revision of the customs tariff. The people of the west are confident that the government will not make any radical change in the customs tariff which would be prejudicial to the greatest industry in Canada, agriculture. The manufacturing class of the country at this moment are making representations to the government to obtain a larger measure of protection for their industries. It is the duty of the government to protect our Canadian industries to a reasonable extent. On the other hand, let us hope that the Canadian government will never commit the error, having due regard to natural economic principles, of establishing in this country a tariff of the Dingley character, which would create in Canada those monstrosities which we call trusts, which are becoming such a burden to the people of the United States, and are calculated to destroy the individuality of a great number of the citizens of that country. The industry which it will be most profitable to protect in Canada for many years to come is agriculture. When we shall have developed from the Canadian soil all the wealth which it contains, our national industries will have developed in the same proportions. For that matter, hon. gentlemen, I do not know that Canada has suffered much from the Fielding tariff. If we may judge from the results already obtained, this tariff appears to serve the great interests of our people. To prove what I have said I shall, with your permission, quote a statement which I have found in one of the great journals. In speaking of the Fielding tariff the newspaper says:—

Hon. Mr. ROY.

'The Fielding tariff has stimulated and produced in our political life marvellous results, as shown by the following increases:

	Per cent.
Foreign trade	109½
Accounts in the banks	114
Traffic on railways	136
Deposits in the banks	156
Capital of banks	136

And it continues—'Is it really contrary to the public good, this Fielding tariff, which has increased the volume of our commerce by \$311,000,000 in ten years? Is it really so bad a tariff which has increased the exports of our manufactured products from \$9,365,384 to \$14,561,112? Is it really so disastrous, this Fielding tariff, which has permitted the popular savings to grow in bank deposits in ten years by \$219,927,955? No, the Canadian people, marvelling at the results obtained, have confidence that the proposed revision of the customs tariff will not prejudice in the slightest degree the general interests of the country, while at the same time it will improve the special interests of different classes of our population.'

Hon. gentlemen, I am led to deal with a paragraph in the speech from the Throne which interests in the highest degree all Canada, but probably more especially the population of the west. The Canadian parliament will be called upon during the present session to ratify a treaty with the empire of Japan. This news will fill with hope all the settlers of the western provinces. I am one of those who believe that the countries of the Orient are the natural market for the products of British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Alberta. In the absence of near markets, and because of excessive cost of transportation, our farmers in Alberta and Saskatchewan often accumulate the products of their farms from year to year only to dispose of them finally at a sacrifice. Hon. gentlemen, five years hence the wheat of Saskatchewan and Alberta will be manufactured at Vancouver and Prince Rupert, and exported to the east for consumption. When that day comes the farmers of the west will be less cautious; they will sow twice or three times as much land, and receive for their products more remunerative prices. To my mind, it will be little short of a crime if we