

would flow in there, and the country would develop by leaps and bounds. The government of Canada is the freest and best in the world. In testimony of this I will just for a moment revert to an incident which occurred in the year 1865, when a gentleman from Montreal, who was a public man with large experience in different countries and under different governments—I refer to the Hon. D'Arcy McGee—gave a lecture in the city of St. John at the Mechanics' Institute on the subject of Irish affairs. In the course of that lecture he told his hearers that he had lived in Ireland, that he was born in Ireland, and that he had great sympathy for his native land, that he believed they had grievances, some of which he recited. He had lived in England a number of years, and he understood the government of England pretty well. He then said he had lived in the United States some four or five years, and as a journalist he understood pretty well the system of government there. He had lived in Canada a few years, and he said 'gentlemen, when in Ireland I was called an Irish rebel. Under similar circumstances I would be so again, but in Canada I claim to be as good and loyal a British subject as there is in the Dominion, and for the reason that we have the freest constitution and best governed country in the world.' I think that goes to show why we are happy in our government. We are free under the rule of Great Britain, and we are proud to belong to an empire on which the sun never sets, and which is able to defend herself and her subjects no matter what part of the world they are in. I wish to mention briefly some of the other measures alluded to in the address. Reference is made in the speech from the Throne to the trade relations of the country, and to preferential trade with England, and it is gratifying to note that the trade with England has been increasing for the last two years at least. In the year 1898 it increased three millions under the twelve and a half per cent reduction of tariff. In the following year, with twenty-five per cent reduction of tariff, it increased four and a half million dollars; so that it is increasing from year to year. I think that is something to be commended. The agriculture of the Dominion is alluded to. The government and

the Minister of Agriculture deserve credit for the manner in which they have facilitated the export of agricultural products by providing cheap and expeditious transportation and cold storage, which preserves many of the articles in a proper state for sale in England. The address also refers to the necessity for proper inspection. That is a matter which should be looked after very sharply because it is a fact, as stated by the journals of the day, that a large quantity of inferior United States goods are put upon the market in England as Canadian goods. This should be checked. The reduction in postage rates is a great boon to the people, and I am pleased to see that it is expected that the loss caused by the reduction of one cent on letters and other postal matters, will be overcome by the extra amount of postage which will be received. With regard to another subject, the expansion of our markets to the West Indies and to South America, it is important that we should take every advantages of markets outside the Dominion for our surplus products. And it is a fact that we are in a great measure excluded from the markets of our neighbours to the south by a very high and restrictive tariff. The nearest market outside of the United States is the English market, and of course being the second nearest to us, would be the second best, and if we cannot obtain fair trade relations with the United States, we must look elsewhere. I hope the government will be successful in its effort to secure freer trade relations with the West Indies and South America. Another matter to which I will allude which perhaps is not strictly included in any of the subjects mentioned in the speech, is the fact that in the United States the press and a number of the public men advocate a high tariff, a Chinese commercial wall in order that they may drive Canada into their arms. In view of the operation of the preferential tariff, and the ebullition of loyalty which has aroused Canada from one end to the other, the United States will no longer entertain the idea that they can, by any high tariff, or by excluding our commodities from their markets drive us into annexation, their restrictive legislation has had the very opposite effect. If we cannot obtain fair reciprocal trade relations with