

policy by gradual and not by revolutionary processes.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. RUSSELL. Did I not say, at the outset, that I thought we would not be very much divided in opinion? I trust, however, that in the tariff which is to be introduced by the Finance Minister (Mr. Fielding), he will be able to do what his predecessors in office attempted and endeavoured to do, but were never able to accomplish. I hope he will in reality be able to lop off the mouldering branches, to simplify, in many respects, the methods by which taxes are to be collected. I hope he will be able to eliminate the features of that tariff which make for monopoly, and to render its pressure upon the great and staple industries of the people, upon the farming, the mining and the fishing population of the Dominion—less oppressive than it is at present. If he can succeed in accomplishing this, he will fulfil all that can reasonably be expected of him; if he does less, it will be a disappointment to many of us; but, if he should attempt to do more, I am afraid that, in the effort to pursue a thing which is intrinsically good and worthy, by too hasty methods, he will injuriously affect the financial and industrial system of the country. I feel assured that he will do nothing which will injuriously affect the one or the other.

There is one aspect of the question I have not dwelt upon, but which I do not wish to pass over without some observations. We have had suggestions given to us in the press that our conduct in respect of this matter is, to some extent, to be guided by the conduct of our neighbours to the south. Now, have no reason to suppose, and I think that nobody has any reason to suppose, that the United States Congress, in passing its legislation on the subject of its own tariff, has had any regard to any other than the interests of its own people, as it conceived them. I do not think it would be manly in us to whine over the matter or sensible in us to go into hysterics in applying the remedy by our own legislation. As they have legislated to suit themselves, so we propose to legislate here for the Dominion of Canada. We should not, in my judgment, act in a spirit of jingoism, or with a view to retaliation; but the Government that will in this crisis command the confidence of the people of this country must go forward with its legislation in a manly and self-reliant spirit, with an eye solely to the advancement of the interests of Canada and to its relations as a member of the great British Empire, of which we form a part.

There is one paragraph in the Speech from the Throne which has a peculiar interest for the people of the maritime provinces. It is of peculiar interest and importance to the people of those two sister cities, St. John and Halifax, which are

competing in friendly rivalry for the trade of this great Dominion. I refer to the paragraph which promises us the extension of the Intercolonial into the city of Montreal. I believe it is the unanimous opinion, or the almost unanimous opinion of the merchants of Halifax, that in that extension of the Intercolonial into the city of Montreal lies their best hope of securing any fair share of the trade of this great country. With the Intercolonial commencing at Halifax and ending at Point Lévis, I think it is impossible for the people of Halifax, and not very easily possible for the people of St. John, to have any very considerable share of the trade of this country. The people of Halifax, I believe, are keenly interested in this matter, and will watch with very great interest the progress of the measure in this House.

The situation of Halifax in some respects is very difficult in regard to this matter of securing trade. The hon. gentleman who leads the Opposition knows very well that much of the trade which Halifax enjoyed in former years, has been parcelled out among the thriving towns throughout the province that have in late years been doing their business for themselves. It was promised to us many years ago that, in lieu of the trade that we were losing and had lost, we were to become the great winter port of the Dominion, the wharf of British America, and secure a continental trade to restore to us the commercial prestige that we formerly enjoyed.

We have watched, with great interest, with great anxiety, and some measure of despondency, the various expedients that have been resorted to to bring back to the port of Halifax the trade of which it has been deprived. The late Government I suppose endeavoured in good faith, but they endeavoured in vain, to do anything substantial in this direction, but though nothing of a substantial character has been accomplished, I do not despair that something substantial yet will be accomplished. I believe, however, that as a condition precedent to the bringing about of the state of affairs that we desire, we must have the extension of the Intercolonial into the city of Montreal, so that we may ignore, as much as possible, differences of distance and disadvantages of position as compared with Portland and Boston, and secure for the city of Halifax its fair and reasonable share of the trade of this country. We in the maritime provinces have borne great burdens for the development of the interior of the Dominion. We do not urge our sacrifices in any sectional spirit, we do not claim to have done anything exceptional in making such sacrifices as were necessary to develop the country, but we do entertain the hope that our friends in the west will remember these sacrifices, and that when the proper time comes they will insist upon our only real national highway being given such con-