

visited the capital of the United States, such language as that held by the First Minister of the Crown, must have a very unfavourable influence upon the minds of the American people. The Americans will ask: "Well, what kind of a jaundiced, malignant, dyspeptic, jealous creature is the Canadian Tory, who would not permit a Canadian citizen to visit the United States without charging him with treason?" Such language as that used by the hon. First Minister in his Halifax speech, in which he characterized the American people as a fierce democracy, was not flattering to that people; and worse than that, it was not just. The Americans are a peaceable people; they are not a very fierce democracy. That fact was well shown on the occasion of the rebellion in that country. A very bitter feeling existed in the United States towards England on account of the Alabama depredations, and the United States had, at the close of the rebellion, a million soldiers under arms and the most powerful navy in the world.

Mr. BOWELL. Hear, hear.

Mr. CHARLTON. Yes, because just at that period the change was made from wooden vessels to ironclads, and the United States had then a very powerful navy; and both France and England were behind her in efficiency of their navies. At that juncture the United States had a million trained soldiers under arms and the most powerful navy in the world. The proposition was made that the Federal troops should attack Canada and thus punish England by seizing her greatest colonial possessions, but the proposition was not entertained by the better portion of the people, and utterly failed. Among other charges he made against the people of the United States, the right hon. gentleman, while he charged them with being a fierce democracy, made representations reflecting on the foreign portion of that population. Why, Sir, we have been spending in our Immigration Department large sums annually to secure the introduction of the very class of people whom the right hon. the First Minister talks of as being a menace to the institutions of the United States. The hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace) shakes his head, but what is the character of the American nation? Since 1820, the United States have received over 14,500,000 immigrants, the great majority of whom are Scotch, German, Scandinavian, English and Irish. It is only during recent years that Hungarians and Italians have been added to the population in any considerable number. In addition to all these, there are in the United States, forming a part of the choicest portion of their population, 1,000,000 Canadians, the very best of our people, the enterprising, the young, and the vigorous. Of the foreign element of the population of the United States, eight out of ten belong to the desirable class; and when the right hon. the First Minister spoke of that population as he did, he insulted the English, the Irish, the Scotch, the German and the Canadian foreign residents of the United States. There are not in the United States, at the present moment, probably over 7,000,000 of these foreign-born immigrants out of the 65,000,000 inhabitants, or but a small proportion relatively of the entire population.

The First Minister then went on to fill the *role* of a political Jeremiah, and predicted that the United States would in the near future suffer from revolu-

Mr. CHARLTON.

tion. All republics, he said, in the past had been subjected to revolutions from time to time, and a like fate awaited the United States; and he felicitated himself on the fact that we, in Canada, would dwell in peace in the midst of all these revolutions and dissensions which would shatter, or at least imperil, the institutions of the United States. Now, the United States have passed through some trying difficulties. They passed through a fierce struggle when the two irreconcilable principles of slavery and freedom were brought face to face, and one or the other had to be overcome; but I do not see any reason why further revolutions or troubles should occur in the near future. The federal system is the most elastic system in existence, a system never tried by any nation before, and the best authorities believe that the practical results of its operation will be to give stability to the institutions of the great country governed by it. I do not know if we can felicitate ourselves here on being entirely removed from all danger of internal trouble. We have not had, it is true, a revolution yet, but we have the discordant elements likely to create trouble in the future. We have the North-West troubles, which are not yet ended; we have the infamous policy of a bad Government; we have the Gerrymander Act, the Franchise Act; we have the revising barristers practically controlling the elections of the country, and a Government with power to exercise, in connection with the elections, any kind of rascality they please. We have our Senate not representing the country at all; we have fraudulent returning officers; we have corruption. In fact, we have, in the political elements of Canada, the materials for an explosion; and I do not think it is wise to felicitate ourselves on our total exemption from all danger in the future and to indulge in offensive predictions with regard to our neighbours.

The hon. the Finance Minister took exception to the expression "vile monopolies," used by my hon. friend for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright); but, when my hon. friend spoke of vile monopolies, he did not refer to the individuals belonging to monopolies, but to the system—that system which has been built and fostered by the tariff of this country. The system is a vile one, and it is a fortunate thing that the life of that system is drawing to a close, and that the National Policy cannot be maintained very much longer in Canada. With regard to the attitude of our manufacturers, it need not be denied that they control this Government, and that the Government is, at this moment, endeavouring to ascertain whether the manufacturers will permit it to proceed further in negotiating for reciprocity than reciprocity in natural products. This need not be denied. The manufacturing association of this country practically controls this Government. It exercises a dangerous power, it entrenches itself behind its privileges, and now probably will dictate to the Government that the masses of this country are not to be permitted to enjoy the advantages which will result from free trade with the United States, because, forsooth, such advantages may diminish the profits of that small clique which fattens on the millions of this country. So, I repeat, the manufacturers control this Government, and my hon. friend, in speaking of their monopoly as a vile monopoly was quite within the mark. I have