

each other with different tariffs and hostile interests in relation to trade, they never could have become the people they are now. But there are advantages for us as well abroad as at home. Our Canadian five per cents at one time stood as low as 71 in the London market. When the resolutions in favour of Confederation were first published in the London press our securities rose from 71 to 92, and on the day that the Confederation Bill became law they rose to par. (Hear, hear.) Now what are the objections urged by our friends from Nova Scotia against Confederation? They tell us that we have taken their revenue, and pay them back only 80 cents per head of their population. But this is not the whole truth. If we have taken a portion of their revenues we have assumed their debt to the extent of \$25 per head, and have assumed to a certain extent the responsibility of their defence. They complain of our debt and fear taxation. It is true that our debt at the time of the Union was \$67,263,995, and assuming as we do the debts of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, we have a debt of \$77,825,533, but this debt represents value in great national public works, our railways, canals, and shipping. It has been incurred to assist us in the development of our natural resources. The effect of the expenditure has been in all the Provinces to increase the value of real estate far more than the expenditure itself. It has brought the producer and the consumer more nearly face to face, and so lessened the price of transport; it has not been incurred as in many of the older countries of Europe, for the support of an expensive aristocracy or court. It represents material value. And even with this great advantage in our favour, as compared with the older States of Europe, our taxation is less than in 42 out of the 48 of the European States. (Hear, hear.) The member for Hants tells us that our long frontier is a great source of weakness. Granted; but is it only a source of weakness to us? Is it not as much a source of weakness to our neighbours? If our cities are exposed to their attack, their cities are exposed to our attack. And when our population in the war of 1812 was not one-twentieth of that of the United States, we were not content to be merely defensive. (Hear, hear.) What we did then we can do again, if necessary. What man did, that man can do. But the large debt of the United States is a hostage to us for peace, and I believe there never was less danger of war with the United States than at the present time, (hear, hear.) But says the member for Hants, you have no army, no navy—you

[Mr. Harrison (Toronto West)]

are powerless. My reply is that we have the finest army and navy in the world—the army and navy of England. The English army is our army. The English navy is our navy, and war with us is war with England, (hear, hear.) The power of the British Empire is at our back, and the moral defence which that affords defies computation. With increased advantages no doubt we shall have increased responsibilities, but we shall never unless at our own request be deserted by England, (applause.) Have we not reason to look hopefully to our future? Why should we not become a great and powerful nation? We have a country, with one exception larger than any in Europe; we have a population greater than 38 out of the 48 States of Europe; we have a population larger than the United States at the time they became an independent power; we have every variety for nation industry, agriculture, manufactures and commerce; we have unbounded natural resources; we have an export and import trade one-third greater than the United States when they became an independent power; we are even now the fourth, if not the third, Maritime Power of the world; we have a hardy, honest and enterprising population; we have room for millions added to our population; we have great national public works; we have every means of expansion and extension; we have as great facilities for progress as the United States had in their infancy as a Nation, indeed we have greater facilities, for we start in peace, they started in war, we with our mother's blessing, they without it, and in addition to all we have what they had not, the modern appliances of steam and electricity—the great motive powers of civilization. If we rise to the dignity of our position, remain true to ourselves, encourage national manhood, foster national sentiment, and exert ourselves in the future as we have done in the past, we shall make as much progress in the first five years of our existence as the United States did in the first ten of theirs, and gain among the nations of the earth which will be a pride to ourselves, and I trust the admiration of the civilized world. (Great applause.)

Mr. Parker thought it better if this house were to follow the example of the English House of Commons and pass the Address without such a lengthy debate as had occurred on this occasion, and proceeded to speak of the benefits of Confederation, but at the expiration of a few moments becoming