

labouring population of this country, a great boon to them? Were it not for the moderate protection afforded the industries of this country, that large sum now expended for wages would be paid in other countries manufacturing for our wants, and not paid in Canada. The hon. gentleman has also shown the enormous volume of annual production of commodities, over \$400,000,000. Just think of the wealth and consuming power of this country to be able to absorb such an immense value in addition to our annual importation of about \$120,000,000? Then, again, look at the large amount of wealth kept in the country by reason of this home production. One can readily understand why a decline may take place in our imports and revenue, when we have so large a quantity of home production to supply our wants. As a matter of course, the more we supply our home market with our own manufactures the less we require to import, and the less will be the revenue from importations. So that before very long other sources of revenue may have to be looked for.

With regard to the Manitoba school question, I am fully convinced that an injustice has been done the minority which should be and I hope will be rectified. A prescribed right exercised for twenty years has been ruthlessly taken away from the minority, an act not to the credit of the Grit government of Manitoba. My voice and my vote will go for justice to the minority.

I have to express on behalf of the people of British Columbia the great pleasure we had in the visit of the Governor General and Her Excellency the Countess of Aberdeen last winter. Everywhere they met with a most enthusiastic and loyal reception, and they endeared themselves to all with whom they came in contact. During the whole of their stay at Victoria they worked incessantly attending meetings of school children, charitable and other institutions, speaking kind, useful and encouraging words wherever they went. We earnestly hope Their Excellencies will repeat their visit. I now pass to a darker side of the picture. Few, if any public men have died in Canada whose loss has been so much felt and lamented as that of Sir John Thompson. Those who came in contact with him could not help being impressed with his fairness, his high sense of justice, and integrity. Modest in his demeanour, he was always courteous, civil, and

kind. I often noticed, that although leader of the House of Commons, he very seldom spoke, and never sought to impress his own superiority; but when he did speak, his words carried with them quasi-judicial weight, which gained the respect and confidence of his political opponents, as well as of his own friends. The hon. gentleman from Ottawa has expressed his condolence in very considerate and appropriate language. Advancing from a humble position in life, by his indomitable perseverance to the high and honoured position he occupied in the councils of the country, and in the hearts of the people, the life, and progress of Sir John Thompson may well be emulated by the young men of this Dominion. Great and small, rich and poor, however, must die, and leave this sphere of action, and many would wish to end their days amidst surroundings of their own selection; but the highest ambition of the departed premier never anticipated such royal surroundings as he had—romantic and tragic in the highest degree, surrounded by the noble of the land. The heart of the British nation, and the sovereign head of that great nation were with him in that last hour. Our gracious Queen marked her esteem and tender sympathy by her attention to the dead premier's family, and by the honours paid to his mortal remains—all of which is a source of pride and satisfaction to this country, as well as to his family and relations. But we must not dwell too much on such sad events in public life. The world must move, the work of this country must go on, and in our sorrow we may congratulate ourselves that men can be found qualified to take the places of those who have gone. In Sir John Thompson's successor to the premiership, Sir Mackenzie Bowell, we have a man who will fill the office with assiduity, integrity and ability. I cordially join the mover and seconder, and this House, in giving him our hearty congratulations for the title conferred on him by our gracious Queen, and will add, as others have done, long may he live to enjoy his title, and long may he as premier continue to lead his party, and this House on to victory.

The remarks of my hon. colleague from Victoria about representation in the Cabinet are perfectly correct as far as the opinions of the people of British Columbia are concerned. They believe they have not been treated with the consideration and justice which their position commercially and