

THE ADDRESS.

DEBATE RESUMED.

The Order of the Day having been called resuming the adjourned debate on the consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's Speech on the opening of the second session of the seventh Parliament—

Hon. Mr. BOULTON said: I observe that a daily paper, published here in the city of Ottawa, this morning had a heading over the Senate report that the "Hon. Senator Boulton is again kicking over the traces," and with your permission I will draw your attention to that heading, for I suppose what has been referred to is the "kick" I made last year when I brought in some amendments to the Address that was presented to Her Most Gracious Majesty, and I was looked upon at that time as a "kicker." It was only an honest attempt on my part to improve the sentences in the Address that I thought were unwisely expressed, and, as I thought at the time, the result was a justification of the action I took because one of the amendments that I made was that we should not ask for the renoucement of the most favoured nation clauses, but only for the renoucement of the most favoured national treatment under the two treaties with the Zollverein and Belgium. I observe when it went to the House of Commons that that amendment was made and the Address came back to the Senate to have that amendment ratified. The other clause that I thought was not wise to have in that Address I observe is now being used by the Government of Newfoundland to defend itself against the position that Canada is taking in interfering with the reciprocity arrangements they were endeavouring to make with the United States, as they say if Canada demands the rights under that clause why should they be denied Newfoundland? Had the denoucement of the most favoured nation clause been demanded, and which is now being used to protect our trade arrangements with the Spanish West Indies, and Sir Charles Tupper and a member of the Newfoundland Government are to-day working to get the Imperial Government to preserve Canadian and Newfoundland trade with the Spanish West Indies under the most favoured nation clause with Spain which the Address, in its original form, as it came before us last year, denounced, a defect which I attempted to amend. I think that these cases that I

cite were sufficient justification for the action that I took on that occasion, and that it can not be referred to as a "kick over the traces" any more than the action I am taking on the present occasion. All that I am doing is preparing information for the people of Canada on which to decide what is the best for our interests in regard to the trade arrangements of the country. That is what I am here in this honorable House for—to assist the people with the information that is at my disposal, and at the disposal of every member of the Senate, to form for themselves a judgment on the questions before the country. I might say, and I do not think it improper to refer to it at the present moment, that the amendment which I moved last session drew forth this statement from the hon. member from Halifax, a gentleman who opposes the Government. He said:

"The hon. member from Shell River confined his speech pretty much to the matter before the Senate, and, I think, he gave us some very valuable information. I presume most of the members were aware of the fact before but the information that he gave with respect to the attitude assumed by the British Government in connection with the Spanish treaty was quite new to me. It was very important and valuable information, and shows, I think, in a very clear and emphatic way how careful the Imperial Government has been of late of the interests of her colonies. We in Canada have every reason to be satisfied."

I think that is a tribute extracted from a member of the Opposition showing that he, at all events, from the information I was able to bring down, felt satisfied that our interests were being cared for by the Imperial Government. It is a view that is most essential for us to take at the present moment when I think our interests in connection with the British Empire are at stake. Any information I can bring down to strengthen the views taken by our neighbours should be of value to this House and the country at large. Now, taking up the discussion of our trade relations, I yesterday was engaged in discussing the question of our coal industry. I made a statement that in 1874 we exported 252,000 tons, and in 1889 we only exported from Nova Scotia 186,000 tons, and I see no reason to change those figures, although they have been called in question. The total output of coal in the Province of Nova Scotia from 1874 to 1879 averaged 873,000 tons, and the coal, that was put out in the Province of Nova Scotia from 1880 to 1889 averaged 1,611,000