

that we should vote this way, that way, or the other way in the national interest.

I find that time is moving on, and I have spoken a little longer than I intended. I have but a few words to say on protection. Protection is always used for tariff; but that is one of the smallest of its uses. We could live, somehow or other, without protection, but not as well. There is not a man living who has got a particle of Canadianism in him who would contend that we could do away with the tariff; therefore the principle of protection is advocated by everybody. It is a question of volume, a question of its application.

The province of Quebec is particularly interested in protection, because, while a few of us down there speak English, we are a French people. We have no other country than Quebec; it is our home, and we only overflow to other parts when we are crowded. We do not leave Quebec because we want to. Roamers there always were, and roamers there always will be; but the great bulk of the French Canadian people are a close home-abiding people. They proved themselves to be the best industrial people the United States ever had, and before we had the National Policy they went over there to such an extent that to-day there are nearly 2,000,000 French Canadians in that country. If we had had the National Policy at that time we would to-day have half those people in this country instead of them being over there. Protection is a home policy. We want to stay at home. The French Canadian is an artisan; give him an axe and a saw and he can make a house. He adapts himself to industry as no other nation in Canada does. He protects himself to a certain extent in that respect, and manufacturers like to come where he is because he is a good artisan. That is the first principle of protection that we have in the province of Quebec. That is the character of our citizenship, and to-day we have industries coming from the United States and from Ontario and establishing themselves in Sherbrooke, Montreal, Three Rivers, St. Hyacinthe, and wherever there is water-power, because they are protected by the industry of the people there, because they are free from strikes, because the people are a home-loving, peaceful people—and that is the essential thing in the building of an industry. Capital is not worth anything, and management is not much better, unless you have the man with the fingers to produce the goods. Therefore we have in the province of Quebec a centre of industry which, if it

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is given a chance, can manufacture for the great prairies of the West as cheaply and as well as any nation in the world. And seeing that we pledged our credit and mortgaged Canada to upbuild the western country—and we did it gladly—the only decent and fair thing the progressive people of that part can do is to give fair play to the man in the East who is willing to give them fair play. Sir John A. Macdonald recognized these characteristics of the people of Quebec, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier recognized them, because he lived amongst these people, and he continued Sir John A. Macdonald's policy, and safeguarded it, and protected Canada, and with it Quebec. There is no equivalent for protection. There is nothing that you can substitute for it in Quebec; no other policy will do. We do not want anything that is not fair, but we demand protection in Quebec, whether we are farmers, or labourers, or industrial people.

Now I come to another form of protection—the protection of our labour. I say, honourable gentlemen, that our labour should be safeguarded against the importation of labour into this country. It should be protected as to the quality and character of that labour. I say it is unfair that our people of the province of Quebec, and the girls and boys of our people, should be exposed to the lower civilization of Central Europe. They should be protected from it, and I demand that protection for them.

One thing more, and I have finished. Let it be well understood throughout the wide world that we are not calling for immigrants from the sunken nations of Europe, from the remnants of those empires that were so great five hundred or a thousand years ago, but which have fallen so low that they can never rise. I say that the prairies of the West should not be settled by these animals; they should be conserved for the best people in the world. No second-rate people should be allowed to go there. In the interests of the Dominion of Canada, the quality should be branded Number One, and Number One only, because we have learned that there is no asset so valuable to the citizenship and the life of a nation as the encouragement of its citizens.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Robertson, the debate was adjourned.

The Senate adjourned until to-morrow at 3 p.m.