

year—in 1896, discussing the same measure, said:

What is this noble contribution of 25 per cent—

to British trade and British industries.

—the noble contribution is this that the hon. gentlemen opposite, without taking the trouble, in an important matter of this kind, to ascertain whether they were right or wrong, have seen fit to take a step which can, to my mind, have only one of two results: either it is bound to bring this country into direct conflict with the mother country on this point, or else it is bound to bring the mother country into direct conflict with Germany. One or the other of these results may follow.

We were declaring war on the industries of Great Britain, we were hampering and shackling Canadian industries, we were creating a scare—yes, 13 or 14 years ago we were anticipating the scare of last year—we were creating a real scare between Great Britain and Germany because forsooth we were giving a British preference of 25 per cent. This emphasizes the fact that it is very dangerous to make predictions.

Now, let us come to the arguments which are invoked in favour of this measure. First of all let us rise to the height of the question, let us rise to the height of Canada, let us not belittle our country, let us trust ourselves in this bargain with the United States. Sir, the wealth of Canada baffles all description. Our resources are enormous, are unbounded, our development during the last fifteen years—I maintain the expression fifteen years, which I used at the manufacturers' banquet, because I want to give just a little slice of these good times to my hon. friends opposite—our development during the last fifteen years has been unprecedented. To make a short inventory of the resources of Canada, let me say that it is a country as big as Europe 111,000 square miles, larger than the United States, it could absorb the United States, the United States materially could not absorb Canada; it is a country thirty times as large as the United Kingdom, eighteen times as large as Germany, extending over 40 parallels of latitude, with resources the like of which are not known in any other country in this wide world; we have the greatest timber resources in the world, 550,000,000 feet of standing timber; wheat fields 600 miles wide, 1,000 miles long, waiting ready for the plough, not less than 190,000,000 acres of wheat land; we have 12,500 miles of coast fisheries, 250 miles of which are in the beautiful county of Gaspé; we have 440,000 miles of fresh water fisheries; in coal alone, according to the statistics of the Department of the Interior, 172,000,000 tons; in gold we have produced the worth of \$260,000,000; in silver we occupy

third place in the world; in nickel we have three-fifths of the world's supply; in 1901, of pig iron we produced 160,000,000 tons, in 1904, 509,000,000 tons; we have estimated water-powers available to the extent of 25,000,000 horse-power. Sir, I think it will not appear ludicrous if I give this short inventory of the resources of our country.

My hon. friend the leader of the opposition the other day concluded his speech by saying that his motto was: Let well enough alone. I say that with such colossal natural resources, with such a heritage, and with such a future, we can well afford to say: Not let well enough alone, but let us open wide the gates of our country, let us not be afraid to bargain and to trade with our neighbours.

Thanks to a wise immigration policy, our great west is filling rapidly with the best elements of the white people of this world. Not to speak of the two old races in Canada, the English and the French—and when I mention the English, I wish to include my friends from Ireland, from Scotland, from Wales, and I hope that the flag shall wave on St. David's day—not to speak of the last two races which I claim come from the best stock in the world, I say that we have a good element in the other races that are filling up rapidly our virgin soil in the far west. Therefore, Sir, we should not be afraid with such a population, ever and ever increasing, to trade with the United States of America. Not speaking of my own countrymen, but of the English race in Canada, it is the descendants of that hardy race which, in the last two or three hundred years, has conquered all the best markets in the world. Great Britain is not afraid to trade east and west, north and south, not afraid to trade with the United States, not afraid to trade with the Latin republics, not afraid to compete with Germany, with her high tariff wall, not afraid to compete her colonies with those nations which are slowly conquering the deepest recesses of the wild continents of the earth.

Great Britain, that nation of shop-keepers as it was so aptly described by Napoleon Bonaparte; Great Britain by trading with the whole world, by leaving her doors open to all comers has not lost her autonomy. The British race is still the hardy race it was 300 years ago, and I believe that for centuries to come it will continue to lead the world. Canada is looking for markets for her enormous surplus products. We are subsidizing steamship lines east and west and north and south; we are bonusing the construction of railways; we are establishing commercial agencies in the United States, in France, in Belgium, in Germany, in Italy, in Japan, in Australia, in China, and in