

people of Canada. While the intervening commercial policy, however false in principle, has served a valuable purpose to the people of Canada, the day has come when we must look things squarely in the face. The Government of the United States has given us their ultimatum on the question of reciprocity through the utterances of Secretary Foster, which I do not think any man in Canada will accept, be he Conservative or be he Liberal, the fact that the protective policy has imposed upon the principal sources of industry in Canada burdens that are checking their legitimate growth, and which the comparison in the exporting power of Canada to-day, that I have instituted with the exporting power of the people when they were numerically fewer in numbers, when their transportation facilities were immeasurably inferior, when the great territories and province to the west of us were not in the count, and when their liabilities were not half what they were to-day, will cause financial men and commercial men to ponder well upon the advisability of adopting the only alternative in our fiscal policy that will give the opportunity to labour and industry to raise Canada in our estimation, and in the estimation of our neighbours, by showing that pluck and self-reliance that will enable them to depend upon the competitive markets of the world for their sustenance and enrichment. I will not move any amendment to this Address, but I will take an early opportunity of presenting a resolution seeking to recommend a readjustment of our tariff—not a readjustment to destroy the investments our past policy has induced, but to strengthen them—such a readjustment as will work eventually into absolute freedom of trade, giving to individual energy the freest scope for its ability in the industry of the country which is natural to our climate, resources and channels of commerce, and such a readjustment as will put our best customers upon an equal footing in our trade arrangements, in the duties we may find it necessary to levy to meet our obligations, such a readjustment as will draw to our ports a carrying power that will enable us to export our heavy produce to the markets of Europe at the lowest cost, and such a readjustment as will enable us to cheapen the cost of production, so that we can successfully compete in the more extended markets that the world offers.

Hon. Mr. ABBOTT—It has been the custom in the debate on the Address for hon. gentlemen to make their remarks upon it, and it has usually been wound up by the leader of the House. If no hon. member desires to say anything more on the subject of the Address, I would make a few remarks in a very cursory way to close the debate. I think I should join with my hon. friends opposite, and have good reason for doing so, in the compliments which they paid to the new members for the ability they displayed in moving and seconding the Address. I think, apart from what we knew of them before, we have good reason, to judge from their efforts on that occasion, which is a very trying one, and not a very interesting one to them, I am sure, that they will be valuable members of the House; and I desire to add my compliments to those of my hon. friend opposite to them on the manner in which they addressed themselves to their task. I think I owe a few words of recognition also to the leader of the Opposition for the courtesy and good nature with which he performed his usual functions of criticising the Address. I found what he said entirely destitute of any asperity or bad feeling, but in point of fact the very reverse of that, and I am gratified to recognize the fact that we can conduct our discussions without loss of temper, and without wounding each other's sensibilities in any way. The criticism which my hon. friend devoted to the Address was, at the same time trenchant, to some extent, on several points; and it is on these points that I propose to say a word or two. I must admit, as I have already said, that that criticism was of a friendly and frank character, and, barring some portion of its substance, I have not a word to find fault with in it. My hon. friend commenced that criticism by a reference to the speech of the hon. gentleman who seconded the Address, on the subject of the duties on pork and beef and on other natural products of the country, and my hon. friend appeared to find fault with those duties. I would only say that it seems to me a little inconsistent with the assertions which hon. gentlemen opposite have been urging upon us—that the farmers were neglected—that the farmers were not protected—that they have no advantages—that all the protection was for the manufacturers. Now, it would appear from what my hon. friend said in his criticism on the speech of the seconder that he desires still further to oppress the