

creed or nationality, would be just as ready to fly to the defence of the country as they have proved themselves to be in the past.

Reference is made to preferential trade. The only thing I have seen that emanated from the conference on that question was a threat, a covert threat on the part of our rulers that they had the power and probably would repeal that portion of the tariff which gave preference to Great Britain unless they got a consideration therefor; and the reason they give for that is that times have changed—that there was no duty upon wheat and agricultural products in England when they took the ground and the position that they did not want the preference; but now that there is a duty they demand that Canada should be exempt from it. We can very easily understand how that was answered by Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, 'But your premier has already told us you do not want a preference; that Canada granted that preference purely for love and in recognition of what we have done for Canada.' We know very well the preferential treatment of British products in our markets has been the means of depriving this country of a large trade with Germany. I have the figures under my hand but every one knows what has taken place. The premier says when the correspondence is laid before the House of Commons we will see what has been done in that respect. The correspondence has not effected any change in the German tariff, and the German tariff is especially framed to injure the trade of Canada while it grants concessions to the United States. There is a much heavier duty imposed by Germany upon our products than we impose upon the products of Germany. But they have an advantage under the preferential trade that, in my opinion, and I think the opinion of the country, is unjustifiable. The regulations are so framed that all the German manufacturers have to do is to bring their manufactures into England, alter them a little, and then import them into this country under the preferential tariff as British manufactures. That is a broad question on which figures may be produced hereafter.

The next paragraph is in reference to immigration. I am not one of those who believe that the great influx of people from the United States into our North-west Ter-

ritories is going to be of such a damaging character, politically, as many have indicated. I believe that most of those people—at least a very large proportion of those who are coming from Dakota and Minnesota, are either Canadians who left this country some years ago during the drought in Manitoba and the failure of the crops, or the descendants of those men who never became United States subjects except by birth. They are coming back to their own country, and so long as that prosperity exists arising from the magnificent harvests which we have enjoyed in the North-west, they will be better subjects than they ever were, because they have had the advantage of knowing what United States institutions really are. I go further than that. I say in this country some of our best citizens are of United States birth, and I predict that many of those intelligent men who are coming from the United States to-day and settling in our North-west Territories and Manitoba, will, after they have lived there a few years, appreciate the superiority of British institutions over those of the Republic and will be glad to remain here and become as loyal subjects as we are. While it is a fact that large numbers of people are coming into the country, it is lamentable, and I speak from an Ontario point of view, that the population of this province has not increased in the ratio that we think it ought to have increased. Whether this showing is the result of a defective census I do not know, but this we do know, that under the constitution we are to lose about five representatives. That arises from the supposed increase of population in the province of Quebec. I have yet to learn that there has been any great immigration for years past into the province of Quebec except into the St. John district, arising from the fact of the railway having been constructed there; but that that increase has grown so rapidly as to deprive us of five representatives in parliament is incomprehensible, unless it is explained by the fact that while they have increased in Quebec the Ontario people have left the country. Now, if you look at the last Trade and Commerce returns you will find that the exodus has been growing for years past—that is, judging by the trade returns and the entries for exportation of settlers' effects. That is the way hon. gentlemen opposite used to judge