

any wonder then that they would desire this market again open to them? But they have found a market in the West Indies and otherwise dispose of their products, and this interest is doing well. Our ship builders would have been very glad to have had our ships admitted to registry and the coasting trade opened to us, because we can build at a much less cost than they. It is generally believed that there are many British vessels owned by Americans registered in the names of British subjects. This branch of business is now, however, very successful and there is perhaps more tonnage now building in the Province than at any previous time. In the County of Hants, represented by the Hon. Mr. Howe, there are about thirty thousand tons building, and these are good vessels, and admitted to 1st class for 8 years, and a renewal of 4 years under certain conditions, and I may say that these vessels will be owned in the country, and all their earnings sent home from abroad to enrich our people. It is well known that Nova Scotia owns more tonnage than any other country in proportion to population, having more than a ton of shipping to every inhabitant, and I may add that the tonnage is increasing much more rapidly than the population. I may say in this connection, that as something has been said about Independence, the people of Nova Scotia do not desire it. The sails of our ships whiten every sea, and it is the Flag of Old England that gives them confidence and protects their interests when need be. The people believe that independence means annexation, that we could not stand alone. It would take a considerable portion of our revenue to pay Consuls abroad, and where would be the navy to back them up in time of need. In the Local Legislature there were four annexationists, but not one of them was re-elected at the last Election. This shows the feelings of the people. I was amongst those who thought that the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty would be an irreparable loss to us, but it has not proved so and I now think it was perhaps the best thing that ever happened. We used to sell to the Americans the raw material at first price and bring back manufactured articles at the highest prices they having all the advantage of manufacturing. Manufacturing establishments are now springing up all over the country and on a solid basis as we can successfully compete, the taxes are now so much higher in the States and there is now so much done by machinery that the high price of labor is not so great a difficulty as hereto-

fore and with our coal and iron and other resources we are now looking to a bright future in manufactures. I went across to Hull a few days ago and visited Mr. Eddy's establishment for the manufacture of matches, tubs, buckets, &c., and found that he gave employment to 2,000 people and its growth has been very rapid for the last six years. This Treaty will help us to build and complete, within the time I hope, the Pacific Railway. We have among us this session, for the first time, gentlemen representing Manitoba and British Columbia who would do honor to any Legislative Assembly, and judging the people by them we may reasonably expect much from that part of the Dominion. Now, hon. gentlemen I think with a good Government such as we now have and with well directed energies this Dominion has a bright future. The hon. gentleman for Parkerville said the other day that if he could only see Nova Scotia he would willingly die, but I tell him to come down to Nova Scotia we will be glad to see him, and will not bury him, but treat him well, and send him back I think better satisfied than ever with his country. We should miss his good face and humour from among us. Hon. gentlemen, you will always find the Nova Scotians a patriotic and loyal people, ready to make sacrifices for the general good. They believe that they live under the best system of Government that prevails in the world, and are ruled over by the best Sovereign that ever swayed a sceptre.

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON—It is certainly rather difficult to continue a debate on a subject on which so much has already been said; but at the same time the question is of so much importance that I am unwilling to give a silent vote. I believe it will be advantageous to the country if there is great unanimity on this question, perhaps the most important that has ever been debated in this Parliament. I am one of those who cannot boast of being a recent convert to the desirability of this Treaty. I have approved of it from the first—not that I was altogether satisfied with it—not that there were not things in it that might have been more favorable for Canada; but I have looked upon it as more or less in the nature of a compromise. It is impossible for every party in the arrangement of such matters to have entirely his own way, and one feature in its favor to my mind is the fact that it is not altogether satisfactory to either side. In that respect it is like an arbitration. I must say that I did not expect that complete reciprocity would have been obtained by the negotiations—