

man than a statement that we can make ourselves rich by taxing the commodities which we make and wear. If you tax the shoemaker's goods for the benefit of the linen draper or the tailor, you must tax the tailor and the linen draper to compensate the shoemaker, and then you will be so much the poorer by the sum that it takes to put this system into operation. (Cries of "Time, time.") In pursuing the course we have taken, we have had every national and social consideration on our side. We are able to point out clearly and conclusively from the record of the United States for the last seventeen years, and from the record of England from the time that she adopted her revenue tariff policy, the prosperity of the one and the universal wreck and ruin of the other. (Hear, hear.) Canada stands on this Continent upon a better footing as to geographical and physical considerations than the United States, yet I say that every class in our community is immensely more prosperous at this moment than the same class in the United States. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) You will find on all our public works at the present moment—on the new works on the Welland Canal—that at least one-half, if not two-thirds, of all the men employed there are Americans, who have come over because they were unable to find work on their own side of the line. (Hear, hear.) You will find also that throughout the whole of the United States there are thousands upon thousands of idle men who are passing through the country creating a state of terrorism which has had no example in that country or in England, simply because the protectionist has ruined its trade, and there are millions of people out of employment—a burden upon the rest of the country. It has depressed their agricultural industry and limited their power to buy goods from the manufacturer. All these goods are made in such a way, and at such a cost, that they cannot be exported to foreign countries. But, sir, as Canadians, should we take any pride in the policy of the Empire to which we belong? As a loyal Canadian I think our plan is politically to keep on all-fours with the rest of the Empire, to keep our policy in harmony with that of the Mother Country in trade and in everything else where it is possible for us to act in unity with her. But these men—these Tory leaders who claim continually to be the very salt of the earth as to loyalty—to be the means of preserving this country to British connection—who are constantly denouncing myself or some of my associates in our political ranks with being tainted with disloyalty to the Empire—why, sir, these are the men who seem to pay the slightest regard to the policy of the British Empire—that policy which has carried the English ship and the English flag to every port of the world—that policy which has carried British commerce, the British name and British civilization to the remotest parts of the earth. (Loud cheers.) Some years ago most of the public men of Canada exerted themselves to procure a close union of the British American Provinces. That Confederation we accomplished, and we hope, sir, to preserve a similar close alliance—if not with the same system of representation—at all events, an alliance in our legislative actions, if not in our legislative authority—which will harmonize with the British system; and we will see the whole of the Colonies of the Empire which are girdling the earth working together as a confederated body, setting at defiance the tyrants of the earth, and setting also at defiance the evil systems of commercial economy and commercial policy which would, if carried out, result in bringing us back to the state from which we only emerged fifty or sixty years ago with considerable difficulty. Sir, I prophesy further, that the United States of America within the next five years will go back to the policy in existence before 1860. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) There is now no possibility of escape from that course for the people of the United States. They have, by their protective policy, brought ruin upon themselves. They have by their refusal to admit ships into the country, given British vessels the greater portion of the carrying trade of the country. And even though they yet build many fine sailing vessels, foreign ships last year carried seventy-two per cent. of the trade of their great seaport, New York, leaving only 28 per cent. of the trade of their principal port to be carried in American bottoms to foreign countries. Now sir, I have heard occasional remarks in different parts of the audience, from a few gentlemen who have chosen to come here to disturb the meeting, with reference to steel rails, with reference to the Neebing Hotel, and with reference to one or two other small matters. Let me say this, what I have stated at almost every meeting I have attended, that the only accusation that they can bring against the present Administration is one simply of want of prudence in purchasing rails in advance of the time when they were required. Now, sir, I don't believe that we purchased them too soon; but I say now, as I have said on other occasions, that all the rails we bought we bought by open tender, whereas the rails they bought were purchased through a relative of one of themselves, to whom they paid a commission of two and-one-half per cent., and who cheated the Government of Canada by charging them \$20,000, that we know of, more than he paid the manufacturer; and this person got his two and a-half per cent. even upon that. (Cheers.) Upon a light-ship that was purchased we found that the amount paid this same person was more by \$3,000 or \$4,000 than was paid by him to the builder; we have the judgment of the Court for that. Then at the very time that we were buying rails by