

to crave the indulgence of the hon. members of this House. Time is an important factor in estimating the development and progress of a country, and certainly the people of Canada have reason to feel proud of what has been accomplished within the past twenty years. If we look around us, in almost every direction we see tangible proof of that advancement. I would ask any sane man who looks into the various lines of thought and development, if he does not observe in this the full and thorough determination of the people of Canada (notwithstanding the difficulties they have had to contend against) to maintain the spirit of independence and reliance on themselves. It all convinces me that our people are rapidly attaining the point of the maintenance of the true spirit of national development. I know of nothing that has tended more to bring our people together than the grand principles of confederation. It has cemented the various provinces, it has developed interprovincial trade and commerce, and it has caused us to know their legislators, who have been brought up here from time to time, and who have taken so active and so energetic a part in the affairs of this House that—as the Hon. Sir Hibbert Tupper pointed out in Hamilton a few days ago in his admirable address on “Canadian Footprints”—we look to the Maritime Provinces as a nursery of great men. These provinces have contributed to our public life a class of men who have always taken an active and energetic part in the advancement of this country. Before the principles of confederation were thoroughly carried out, the Maritime Provinces traded with Boston and New York, and the contiguous portions of the United States; but since confederation what do we find? That we in this part of Canada are taking their coal, that they are taking our flour, that in every way trade and commerce has sprung up between us, and that by our interchange of ideas we are daily becoming more closely allied to each other. The hon. members of this House need not be told what the Canadian Pacific Railway has accomplished in the progress of our great country. I might say, Sir, that I hold in my hand to-day the bill presented to me by the late Sir John Abbott when he was taking an active part on the floor of this House, who then expressed his wish to me that I should introduce the Canadian Pacific Railway Bill. He formulated the principles of it, and I had the pleasure of introducing it on the 20th day of April, 1872, and of addressing the House on the importance of that great highway. We are to-day realizing the importance of the construction of that railway in every sense of the term. We find that trade and commerce have developed to an extraordinary degree. In the present state of depression that railway has no doubt difficulties to contend against, as almost any railway on this side of the Atlantic has, but not-

withstanding that, I am satisfied that it will be able to stem the current, to float on as for years past, and to assist very materially in the further development of the resources of Canada. I may say that I know perfectly well the sentiments expressed by individuals who have considered the subject, and they are, that the shortest route across from the Atlantic to the Pacific would ultimately command the commercial supremacy of this North American continent. We find also that the Government are now inaugurating a system of rapid steam communication between Great Britain and Canada, a policy which will also assist very materially in advancing our position as a country. Twenty years ago, we had only one line of steamers—the Allans—and to them is due a great deal of credit for what they have done in the earlier stages of Canada. We know that if it had not been for the Allans the trade of Canada would be in a backward condition compared to what it is to-day. There are now five lines of steamers sailing from Montreal to European ports, and we will yet have another line in order to enable us to compete with the great Republic to the south of us. We have also those magnificent steamers, sailing from Vancouver to Japan, China, India and Australia, and they will undoubtedly bring about in time increasing trade with these countries. I read the speech of the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce regarding his mission to Australia the other day, and what a regret came to my mind when I thought that had the Grand Old Chieftain been living he would have clapped him on the shoulder and said: Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the time when we shall have a large and important trade with Australia. At the present time the trade of that great country is just what the trade of Great Britain was when Her Majesty ascended the Throne. Is not that an evidence in itself of what Australia has done by the public spirit and self-reliance of its people? And, when we look at our products that are now being exported there, and the manner in which our Canadian mowers and reapers and other agricultural implements are attracting the attention of the farmers in Australia, we see another evidence that the products of Canada, by their superior construction, will command a market no matter where they go. I believe that it is the intention shortly to establish a Canadian depot in Australia. That is a practical idea, and the people of that continent will then know,—as they are shortly going to know in England by the establishment of a depot of a similar character—what are Canadian products and what are not. We know how often spurious articles are put in the market and said to be Canadian when they are truly something else. It is right and proper that our public men should so direct the current of trade with reference to these depots that the products of Canada, no matter where they go, shall be amply and care-