

school of their countrymen to which they belonged? Would it be less disloyal for those men to take that position with reference to the severance of the empire than for Mr. Bourassa and his friends in the province of Quebec to say, 'We are satisfied with the present status, we insist upon that status being continued, and we are opposed to the movement of imperialism?' Personally I do not see eye to eye with them. I differ entirely from them in the views which I entertain. I think they overlook entirely the fixed laws of growth, the changing conditions surrounding us, the great economic changes which are taking place and must necessarily take place. I think it is impossible for Canada or the empire to maintain for all time to come the status which we at present enjoy. Those great economic laws which we find operating with respect to all nations must operate with respect to Canada and we must keep up in the march of the empires in progress. We indulge too much in Canada in this cry of disloyalty against particular sections of the community. There is nothing which Canada needs so much to-day as a national spirit, as a homogeneity made up of the union of all classes and conditions of people within our Dominion. So long as the political leaders of either party, or of both parties, insist upon promoting their political ends by raising the cry of disloyalty against any particular section of the community, so long will Canada be a heterogeneous people and destitute of that natural spirit which should characterize us as a people.

As an outcome of that particular election I venture to say that if the Naval Bill were submitted to any English-speaking constituency upon its merits and upon its merits alone, without being complicated by influences which would be brought to bear upon it by either or both political parties, I doubt not that on the main question such a constituency would pronounce on that Bill precisely as did the electors of Drummond and Arthabaska.

An hon. MEMBER—For the same reason?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—No, for different reasons. I am dealing with it substantially, and I say in my judgment the

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED.

result would be the same as was the result in that particular constituency.

I observe, hon. gentlemen, that reference has been made in the address to the question of reciprocity. By way of introduction, expression is given to the necessity of Canada extending its trade relations with other countries and of enlarging its markets, of expanding its trade and building up its commercial life. Intimation is made that commercial treaties have been made during the recess with Italy, Belgium, and the Netherlands. We find the government approaching the thin ice and skating around the main question very delicately, and finally arriving at the proposition that we are to meet our old and elusive friend reciprocity at an early date. I was under the impression, that the Liberal party some years ago had stricken reciprocity off its trade list. I was under the impression both from the press and from Liberal speakers on the platform, as well as on the floor of parliament, that reciprocity was only a memory and that under no consideration would the government of Canada be tempted to again enter into negotiations for a reciprocity treaty between Canada and the United States. But I find, not only according to the address, but according to the declaration which has been issued officially by the reciprocity commission composed of this government and representatives of the United States that the way has been cleared; the pioneer work has been done and in the near future the pilgrimages to Washington will be resumed. What is agitating the people of Canada at the present moment is the larger question of what is to be the fiscal policy of the Dominion of Canada. The present government of late years has manifested so many vagaries in the way of entering into experiments with commercial treaties that the question of what our fiscal policy in the future is to be is one of the most important questions that confronts us. Is Canada to have sufficient protection to build up its industrial life, to develop its natural resources and to take its place amongst the industrial nations of the world? Or are we to proceed as we seem to be doing to experiment with every trade nostrum that may be found in the fiscal pharma-