

acquisition is the basis of an empire, the safeguard of our frontier, and our greatest guarantee for the future.

Mr. Lawson, in reply to Mr. Jones, read a number of extracts from Mr. Dawson's explorations in the North-West, describing in very strong language the fertility of immense sections of that territory. He then referred to the difficulty which seemed to loom up in the minds of some gentlemen as to the cost of defending the territory against the United States. He asserted that we had no reason to look on the United States as an aggressive nation. It was not recorded against them that they had ever wantonly invaded the countries in their neighbourhood. When they had desired territory they had offered to purchase it. He thought this continued expression of our fears about the United States was very ungrounded. The people of this country were brave and loyal, and it would be degrading to us to shape our policy by a consideration of what the United States might or might not do. We should take an example of warning from the people of that country. After they became commercially great they devoted their attention too exclusively to commercial pursuits, and failed to look after their political rights and liberties. We saw what was their position to-day in consequence of this, and we should be careful to guard our own rights and liberties, and carry out our own policy, irrespective of the views of any foreign country.

Hon. Mr. Howe referring to the remarks of the last speaker, said no doubt our people were brave, but in modern times war had come to be a question of needle guns, and of how many were on the one side and how many on the other. In our case it was a question of four millions against four and thirty millions, and it did not argue a man to be disloyal that he acknowledged that fact. But we were told that England would defend us. How long would that continue? The English manufacturer had to pay fifteen per cent to get any article he produced into Canada, and now when the custom houses which gave him some chance in the Maritime Provinces were swept away, and the Canadian manufacturer ran over the whole country shutting out English manufacturers by duties of 15 to 20 per cent, how long under those circumstances would English manufacturers consent to pay taxes to defend us? After some further remarks on the defence question, Mr. Howe proposed to refer to the speech of the member for Cumberland

(Dr. Tupper) of Monday night. He said that when the people of Canada got accustomed to that gentleman they would find he never made a speech of which three-fourths, as on Monday night, was not about Mr. Howe. Having replied to charges of inconsistency brought against him by Dr. Tupper, he said as the learned member was always contrasting him (Mr. Howe) with some one else, he would for the moment contrast the honourable gentleman himself with the Minister of Customs. When the Minister of Customs had pledged his word to his co-delegates at Quebec, on this measure of Confederation, he went back to his country, dissolved the House and put the measure before the people. He was beat and a second appeal was made. He might call in question the means by which that appeal was made, but it was a fact that the Minister of Customs made two appeals to his people, and had given them twice an opportunity to decide on this question, and when he came up here to Canada, he came to a large extent sustained by the public opinion of his Province. But when the member for Cumberland went back from the Quebec Conference to Nova Scotia, was it consistent that distrusting his own people he did not dare to put the measure before them? Was it consistent that he should go into their legislature and there declare the measure of Confederation was absolutely impracticable? Was it creditable to his statesmanship or patriotism that at last he got the measure carried by means which he (Mr. Howe) would not stop to characterize? Did not every man here know that the honourable gentleman's conduct in managing that great measure was now the very weakness of it, inasmuch as he had come here single, and alone, leaving behind a sentiment so overwhelming against Confederation, that every man here was more or less embarrassed and disturbed by apprehensions of what the future might bring forth. The honourable gentleman had said that while the elections were going on in Canada, certain newspapers in Nova Scotia violently attacked the existing administration in Canada and supported the Hon. G. Brown, but that as soon as Mr. Brown was beaten, the tone of the Anti-Confederates suddenly changed, and that they had offered themselves to the Government to some extent for purchase and sale. This was unjust and unfair. So long ago as the 18th of June, two or three months before the elections came off, he (Mr. Howe) addressed a letter to the people of Canada, in which he said that since the passage of the Imperial Act, he had had no