

none, and the expenses of collecting the duties would be reduced ; and instead of maintaining half-a-dozen different Governments, there would be only one. The expenses of administration would also be reduced and the result would be productive of general benefit to all. Even as regarded Great Britain, it certainly would not be considered an unimportant object to have available in case of need the sailors and fishermen of these countries, 60,000 of whom were there employed. In ten or fifteen years the present population of 3,500,000 would probably be doubled—its strength united and developed—and if ultimately it were found necessary to separate, they might then be both ready and able to stand alone and resist foreign aggression. But if, as he hoped, the result were to show that the union of these colonies with Great Britain could be maintained with increasing benefit to both, then how much would the strength of the empire be increased by the possession of such a powerful dependency? After some farther observations to the same effect, Mr. Galt concluded by saying that all parties would rejoice at the success of such a policy. He then sat down amidst applause:

Mr. H. ASHWORTH said there was a great deal of misapprehension with regard to the advantages of colonies, and especially with regard to the tariff of duties imposed by the colonies. This part of the country had been very restive lately under the Indian duties of five per cent., and it was a still more anomalous circumstance that Canada should impose much higher duties. We had some 50 colonies upon our hands, which appeared very different judged by the standard of Imperial requirements to what they did when weighed in the balance-sheet of advantages. Suffering as the people did, we ought not to confine ourselves to the Imperial advantages of having a dominion upon which the sun never sets. We ought to consider whether or not we were in a condition to allow the taxes which were charged so heavily upon us to be expended at the rate of some four or five millions a year in upholding colonial governments in all parts of the world, and where the people were much better off than the people of this country (hear). Mr. Galt had spoken of the Canadians as a poor people, but previously he had enlarged upon the progress of the colony in wealth and population, remarking that while the governmental charge per head in Canada was 5s. 2½d.,* in Great Britain it

* N.B.—The Hon. Mr. Galt, in a letter addressed to the *Times* on the 29th Sept., corrected these figures. He states that the annual charge in Great Britain for interest on public debt was 19s. 10½d., while in Canada it was 5s. 2½d.; and that the whole annual expenditure of Great Britain was 27. 8s. 9d., while in Canada it was 14s. 10½d., and not, as erroneously quoted by Mr. Ashworth, 5s. 2½d.