

authority of the *Arena* for January. In five states, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska, we find \$1,174,732,741 mortgages due upon the lands of these states and 783 millions in chattel mortgages, making a burden upon the people in these five states of no less than almost two thousand millions of dollars. They are mortgaged beyond all hope of redemption; and in support of this statement, I point you to the *Arena* of January, pages 204 and 205. I do not mention those things exultantly. On the contrary, I deplore them. But as there are individuals who are trying to turn the people of this country from their true allegiance, by pointing to the United States as a land flowing with milk and honey, a veritable Eldorado, where everybody is fed with a silver spoon and sips from a golden goblet, I feel it my duty, on the floor of this Chamber, to call the attention of the people of Canada to the fact that such is not the case, and in support of my statement, I call to witness those great authorities from whom I have quoted, to show that pauperism, degraded poverty and crime are rampant in that country and are to be found on every hand. I call them to witness to prove that our pessimistic teachers are false teachers and are not conveying the true message of hope to the people of Canada. These pessimistic teachers, I fear, are under the influence of designing individuals living in a foreign country, and if such is the case the people of this country ought to know it. I will now turn my attention to another clause of the Address — that is, the Sault Sainte Marie canal. I congratulate the Government of this country on their foresight. They foresaw the difficulty that must inevitably arise in the navigation of the lakes, and commenced the construction of a lock and canal of our own at Sault Sainte Marie which they are rapidly pushing to completion. Unfortunately for us and for the world, to grow great and not play the despot is a sublime virtue not known to the people to the south of us, and the only way to have enduring peace and good-will between the two countries is to be, so far as these matters are concerned, independent of them; and such was the view of our Government. If we were not independent, perhaps when the necessity arose to use the Soo canal, our neighbours could at any time cut us off, and extort double or treble the value of the right to use the canal

in exchange for something else. Therefore, I say it was wise and prudent on the part of the Government of this country to commence the construction of a canal of our own. We all know that they are too liable in the United States to allow their party politics to enter into the consideration of international relations; and as they have politics on tap there all the time, we do not know the moment the lion's tail might be twisted and this country deprived of the privilege of using the Soo canal. I think, therefore, our Government have done well to build a canal on our own side so that we may utilize to the fullest advantage the great water route from the Atlantic to the head of Lake Superior. I visited the Soo last summer and in my humble judgment, and not only in my judgment but in that of engineers and navigators whom I consulted, we will have a lock there as substantial and as good, and owing to the peculiar plan of its construction and mode of operating, as great in capacity as that of our neighbours—though not so large, and is being constructed at much less expense than theirs is. If I may judge by the enormous amount of plant that the contractors have put on that work, and the vigour and energy with which they are pushing it, we will have that lock completed in a little over half the time it took our neighbours to build theirs. It is a matter of sincere rejoicing on our part that the trade negotiations going on between the Government of this country and the Government of Newfoundland are likely to reach a fair and just settlement. It is to be hoped that the settlement of these questions will lead to negotiations for the admission of Newfoundland into the Confederation of Canada. We would gladly welcome those people, who are true and loyal British subjects into our union in order to complete the confederation of the British provinces of North America. Our future is assured if we are only true to ourselves. The gospel of hope and not the gospel of despair is the true message to be delivered to the people of Canada to-day. Now that we have passed the infantile stage of national existence; now that we have got past the diseases to which childhood is subject, are we to falter and stand still? I think not. Politicians may talk, and pessimists may croak and growl, but above them all is heard the voice of enterprise and progress. I have faith and confidence in the children of those brave, noble-hearted men who laid the foundations of this great country broad and