

do after the Peninsular war? She sold out the territory she owned as Louisiana to the United States, received in return fifteen millions of gold, which she took home to replenish her depleted treasury and to improve the financial condition of France herself. We cannot point out in the history of England an instance where she has parted with a territory in the manner similar to the way in which France parted with Louisiana. Take the case of Spain. She controlled Cuba, it was under her protection and flag for many years. They suffered oppression, exorbitant taxation and restriction in their trade. Spain imposed an export duty on what she had to sell, and sent a standing army to keep the people of that island in subjection, until at last they struck for their independence; to-day they enjoy the liberty of governing themselves, owing to the admirable course adopted by the United States, which country said to Spain, 'hands off, these people must be relieved.' These are the treatments which have been meted out to other countries. Contrast that with the treatment that England has given to her territories and see how much better we are, and how thankful we ought to be.

With regard to the trade of Canada, I am glad to notice that it still grows; we have had prosperous times for a good many years. I am not going to claim the absolute credit for either one party or the other. I feel quite sure that our Conservative friends are just as desirous for the development and progress of Canada as our Reform friends are, they in their way and we in ours. But between us the trade of Canada has grown by leaps and bounds, and we are in the prosperous condition in which we find ourselves to-day. The late government I think did very much toward bringing about this condition of prosperity, and I hope that the condition that now exists, and in which the affairs of the country have been turned over to our Conservative friends, will continue; that our affairs will be prudently and carefully handled and that the trade will grow under the care and administration which I hope will characterize their acts; that we shall have from year to year the same evidences of progress and prosperity that we have had in the past, and that Canada will

become an independent, contented and prosperous people. We have in existence and have had for many years a protective tariff. I was at one time opposed to the principles of protection, but as we grow older we grow wiser. I have come to the conclusion that there is no tariff under which any country can grow and prosper better or more desirable for all classes of communities than a prudent, well-regulated protective tariff. I think it is the best that we can have. England has lived under a free trade policy for many years; I do not think there is any country in the world that could live under free trade so long as England has. While the other nations of the earth are practising the principles of protection she opens her ports to the world. She may think it is a magnanimous act on her part as a great nation, but after all when we come to look into her condition, we find a very large percentage of the poorer classes are in jeopardy of poverty, misery and suffering, largely without labour and to some extent without food. Looking over the imports of England last year I notice that she had entered for consumption no less than £155,000,000 sterling—goods absolutely manufactured ready for use and brought in to be sold to her people. That would be about \$750,000,000. Certainly about one-half of that sum was paid for labour, some of it paid to the artisans of the United States, some paid to Germany, some paid to France, but together there would be about \$175,000,000 worth of labour imported while her own people at home in many cases, were living on the very border of starvation and penury, and with nothing to do. While it may be considered a prudent thing to give to the great masses of the people the every-day necessaries they require at the lowest possible price, I think there is a point beyond which no nation can go, and it is her duty in her fiscal policy to at least look after the best interests of all classes of her people, and try to provide a way by which her people can earn an honest and comfortable living, and contribute to the development and welfare of the country in which they live. That is one of the features of protection which I think is to be