

ada, and the future prospects of this country, from so able a statistician as Mr. Wells must be extremely encouraging. It is in this way that the best men of the neighbouring republic regard us to-day. They are taking lessons from our institutions, they are lapping at our fountains of learning, and they estimate the value of our institutions by the prosperity of our people. I trust the day is not far distant when they will arrange their tariff so as not only to meet their own requirements, and develop their own resources, but also to co-operate with us in advancing the great principle of trade on the North American continent. With reference to the great arbitration which has just been held, before concluding, permit me to say that it should be a source of entire gratification and satisfaction to the people of this country to observe its results. There is no doubt the matter has been arranged most satisfactorily to the people of Canada. We had great pride in the plenipotentiaries who went from this country, and we know that the manner in which they discussed all the questions that came before them, the skill and ability they displayed won for them distinction, not only from the people, but from Her Majesty as well. The great question above all others in this conference was that of peace, and that has been accomplished; peace has been secured, and a striking evidence given of the progress of civilization. We have now pelagic sealing; we have no *mare clausum*. We know that in 1885-86 there were some half-dozen vessels fishing in these waters which caught seals only to the value of about \$100,000, whereas during the conference some fifty vessels were engaged, and that trade had advanced to about \$500,000. The Asiatic and American shores, and to within sixty miles of the Pribyloff Islands are free to us, so that the energy and ability of the gentlemen who had this subject in charge have afforded our hardy fishermen an opportunity of not only materially advancing their own interests, but also helping on the resources of our entire Dominion. I feel that this question has been decided in a manner which the people of Canada may regard with a high degree of pride and satisfaction. As regards the tariff, we know that it is a very vexed question, and how it is to be determined this House will soon know. I have not shared the secrets of any member of the Government, but I think the people of Canada, living on the border of a highly protected and industrially developed country, such as the United States, must consider the whole question of the tariff fully, calmly, and dispassionately. It is not a question that can be settled in a day. We must have a revenue to meet our expenditure. If the principles of free trade were introduced, where should we be? We should be in the same position as they are now in England, and should be obliged to levy

taxes upon our people. In that country they have an income tax; no man can shoot a bird, or even take a feather from its tail, without being subject to a tax; no man can catch a fish in any small stream without being taxed. But to-day in Canada, we are free in these particulars. And why are we free? Because thirteen years ago the principles of protection, moderate protection to meet the requirements of our people, and to carry on the affairs of our country, protection so arranged as not to press unduly upon a community, not to thwart the efforts of manufacturers, but to broadly subserve the best interests of this country, and advance its material prosperity, were recognized. And I feel sure that when the tariff is brought down, the men of common sense in the Dominion of Canada will acquiesce in the sentiments which emanate from those who have authority, and that the tariff for this country will be of such a discriminating character, will have so much power in its principles, will so tend to advance the material interests of our people, as to give entire satisfaction to all classes of our people. In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, let me say that the Dominion of Canada is a noble heritage which has descended to us from the achievements of the various nationalities which make up our people. We have a prosperous country, we have an energetic, pushing, and self-reliant population, and, judging from the traditions which our ancestors have left us, I think our own people are fully able to work out their own destiny. Density of population or extent of country are not everything. If we look back over the pages of history, what do we find? India, with a population of two hundred millions, controlled by a few Anglo-Saxons, China with as many millions of people as there are days in the year—what influence do they exert on the progress of civilization, on the advancement of society, or in the councils of the nations? Brazil and Mexico, with even a greater population than Canada—where are they to-day so far as regards their influence in the world? When we consider little Canada, as we are called, with our five millions of people, what do we find? We find that a few days ago our plenipotentiaries distinguished themselves at the seat of learning in Paris, where they met those other great counsellors, and they came back here having established for themselves a name and a reputation which lead us to believe, and which lead the people of the world generally to acknowledge, that in Canada we have a class of men who are well able to guard our interests and to protect us in the widest and most comprehensive sense of the term. It is a grand thing to live in the spring time of a nation; it is a great thing to be at the fountain head of the great stream of national existence, flowing on with every season and gaining