

Hon. Mr. MILLS—When we have people coming here from the continent of Europe who have been subjected to disabilities there, whose opportunities have been less than our own both for political progress and material progress, who are anxious to get on in the world, and who are willing to remain in the territories and cultivate the soil, I have no doubt whatever that these people will ultimately prove to be very satisfactory settlers. The man who is willing to earn his bread by the sweat of his brow, whether he comes from the British islands or from the continent of Europe, or from the United States, will in time become a Canadian in the North-west Territories, and I have every confidence, when I look at the progress that has been made in the neighbouring republic with the men drawn from every country in Europe, from the Mediterranean to the North Sea, that what they have accomplished under their institutions we shall be able to accomplish under the institutions which we have established here, for I am not willing to admit that the races which have taken possession of the United States, or the institutions under which they are governed, are superior to our people or to our institutions. I believe that we are quite their equals, and that our institutions are vastly superior to those which they adopted. They are a hundred years or more later in point of time. They present the accumulated experience of a great empire governing a great variety of races. They have kept progress with the times constantly, and there is nothing of that sort to be found in the constitutional system of our neighbours. That constitutional system is, I think, inferior to our own in every respect in which it differs from our own. My hon. friend congratulated us on the adoption of a protective policy. I think I have heard my hon. friend's congratulations on that subject before.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—A good thing cannot be repeated too often.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—I may say this, that in so far as it is a good thing, I agree with him. But we have done this. My hon. friend and some of those associated with him said to men who had invested large sums of money in industrial establishments in this country, 'if you will let our political opponents into office they will overturn

everything, revolutionize everything; they will raze your industrial institutions to the ground, and you will have nothing left on which to subsist. You will become like Bedouins or Indian wanderers over the earth, and the wealth you were permitted to accumulate under our regime will wholly disappear.' My hon. friend failed largely on his imagination.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—No, we relied upon your honesty.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—My hon. friend says they relied upon our honesty. Certainly, but they did not rely upon our common sense. They may be mistaken. They assumed that we must overturn, according to our views of the political situation, everything upon which we did not agree with them. I do not subscribe to that doctrine. I never did. I maintain we must look at things as they are. We must have some respect for what has been done by those who preceded us in office; we must have some regard for continuity in government. We may regret the investment of money in industries we thought unprofitable, and which might not be profitable for years to come, but we had to consider the question of two evils, whether we should undertake to neglect what had been done, and to injure persons who, upon the faith of government representations, had invested their money in important enterprises, or whether we should respect those and undertake to restrain and limit the principles on which our predecessors had acted, and endeavour to create a more stable state of things and greater reliance and confidence in those who administer the government than existed before. We adopted the latter course. We have cut down the tariff and given the people very great reforms in the adoption of the preferential provisions of our tariff. We have given to the people of England a very great deal of satisfaction in what we have done. We have interested the capitalists of the United Kingdom and the producers of manufactured goods in a way that our opponents never succeeded in interesting them. The people of the United Kingdom were indifferent. Except the men who wanted to lend money to us, there was no one who took any interest in the progress of this country. They regarded us as a sort of