

# SPEECH

BY

MR. N. F. DAVIN, M.P.

ON

## THE BUDGET.

DELIVERED IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, OTTAWA,  
MARCH 29TH, 1892.

Mr. Davies having followed Sir John Thompson, Mr. Davin, who was received with a Ministerial cheer, said:—

I have hoped that we had arrived at a period when my hon. friends on the Opposition side would be convinced that there was no use in pursuing the policy they have so long pursued; but after hearing the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills) and the hon. member for Queen's P.E.I. (Mr. Davies) it would seem that they are still determined to fight under the old flag of unrestricted reciprocity, although that flag has been scouted from one end of the country to the other.

An hon. member. No.

Mr. Davin. My hon. friend says "no." My hon. friend may sit there in coming sessions, and that colony about which my hon. friend from Bothwell was so humorous may have grown still larger; the number of sheep of which he spoke may have swelled by fifty or one hundred per cent., and those goats that have gone to the barrenness prepared for them by the policy of the hon. gentlemen, may be still larger, and that cry of unrestricted reciprocity may yet be heard. That cry, even when there was behind it a certain amount

of belief, a certain evidence of faith, was not either a very successful, nor, in my opinion, a very respectable one. And now when it is absolutely a falsetto cry, when we hear it from those benches—because hon. gentlemen must say something and have been able to invent nothing else—that cry has passed into the category of ridiculous clap-trap, and I was sorry to see so much time occupied here to-night in re-echoing the doleful sounds we have so often heard from my hon. friends. The hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat (Mr. Davies, P.E.I.) was preceded by the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills), and I sympathize with some of the remarks made by the hon. members for Bothwell. Neither this assembly nor any other human institution can be expected to reach or even approach the ideal. When speaking of public opinion in Canada as not satisfactory, he might say the same of England, he might say the same of any country where constitutional government prevails; you might say public opinion is not all it ought to be, but if you compare public opinion in England to-day with what it was fifty years ago, not to go back to the time of Charles II, not to go back to the Revolu-