

the labour of the country, which is the main-spring of its prosperity. Canadians have a responsible trust entailed upon them in governing this large country well. The weight of power is in the eastern provinces, and wisdom is necessary to guide the destinies of the country in such a manner that individual effort may have the freest play to add to the resources of the country, and to increase its wealth in any of our provinces. That individual effort will be increased in its power by the removal of any legislative restriction in our commerce with Great Britain; that returning commerce entering our ocean ports will scatter itself along the lines of our great railways; and that the influx of wealth generated by it will increase the prosperity of our financial and manufacturing centres, and bring our natural resources more into contact with both the outside world and our hardy population, as the certain collateral results, must be made apparent to all. If this paper should induce any of its readers to sum up the economic results that will follow upon taking our bars down to allow British trade to flow freely through Canadian channels, it will not have been written in vain. It is the logical sequence of the denouncement of the favoured-nation treaties with Germany and Belgium—treaties denounced at the instance of both parties in Canada for the sole purpose of allowing Canada to act with freedom in removing the barriers to the free access of British trade without being open to the charge of discriminating against foreign countries. The freedom of British trade will, in the opinion of the writer, stimulate every industrial centre, increase our rural population, and add to our natural strength in all avenues of commerce. The purpose is to show that there is a greater economic force for material strength and national prosperity in the principle of free trade, than in our so-called commercial protection. It must be admitted, however, that circumstances alter cases, and that while we can with national advantage admit British goods upon a mutual free-trade basis, the exclusion of our products, which is our purchasing power, from American markets by high tariffs changes the conditions in so far as they affect the Canadian people. Not so with Great Britain, where our products are admitted free. I notice that the Finance Minister spoke in his budget speech of "my friends the sugar refiners." I recollect when Sir John Mac-

donald referred to Mr. Stairs, the rope manufacturer in Nova Scotia, and the Liberal party accused him of helping the twine manufacturers, Sir John said, "Mr. Stairs helps me, and why should I not help him" and I suppose the Finance Minister is acting on that principle," but with this difference, Sir John by a readjustment of the tariff built up Mr. Stairs, while the Finance Minister of the Liberal party always condemned it as corruption, which now by his own confession he is adopting as his principle by increasing the protection of the sugar refiners. He speaks of his friends the sugar refiners helping him, and why should not he help them. The only thing is that the sugar refiners who yesterday were ready to cut the throats of the present government, are to-day the friends of that government, which shows as far as the manufacturers are concerned, that they have no politics at all, they are the friends of whichever government happens to be in power, and intend to keep them as long as they act as their friends. That is what I call expediency. That is what I call a corrupt motive. That is not acting on the high principle which should influence the government of this country. We have a country extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific and there is only one way we can govern and develop it successfully, and that is to act upon principle, and also to have our trade based upon freedom. It is utterly impossible for us to say we are going to tax the province of British Columbia with its ocean trade on the Pacific, and we are going to tax the farmers because they have nobody to represent them, and we are going to reduce the power of the miners to produce wealth in the country by taxation. Every hon. gentleman knows perfectly well that it is the raw material, the raw products of the country that produce the wealth of the country, and that the manufacturers have been legislated for until they have become a monopoly in Canada, unwilling to compete for the trade of the world, because they have for a limited number, which they keep limited, a better living. The very best evidence in all that, is seen in the depreciation of our real estate the product of which is taxed to keep them limited. I will not detain the House any longer, but I could not let this opportunity pass without putting my views upon this question on record. I quite agree with the principle of extending the preference on sugar to all the component