

that there is not a tittle of foundation for his arguments. My hon. friend, when he was making his speech on this subject in the House, resorted to authority. It was a very natural thing for a lawyer to do, yet I may say this, that what I should expect from a statesman would be "reasoning" on this question. I should expect from him that he would reason this question from historical facts; and the historical facts bearing on it are numerous enough. I should expect to see him reasoning from the existing political phenomena in Europe, and then I should expect that he would draw deductions. But what does my hon. and learned friend do? He comes to us with authorities like a lawyer going before a court of appeal, and what, let me ask, are his authorities?—magazine articles, and some of them written by trumpery writers whose names will not even go down the gutter of time. Now, the hon. gentleman might have gone to many existing countries for a parallel. He might have gone especially to Switzerland. My hon. friend from Bothwell (Mr. Mills) suggested Switzerland, and then my hon. and learned friend (Mr. McCarthy) interjected the remark, "The French language is an exception in Switzerland." What the meaning of that observation is I do not know. How is it an exception in Switzerland? The only meaning of that utterance of my hon. friend would be that the language was exceptionally used in that federal state. Why, Sir, there are only three federal states that I know of: Canada, the United States and Switzerland, and in two of these the French is an official language. Let me say that Canada need not be ashamed to go to Switzerland for instruction. There is scarcely a country which my reading makes me acquainted with so calculated to inspire interest and so full of historical incidents that are imperishable. The development of that country has been extraordinary. The

differences in its formation, its elevations, its soil and its climate are great and varied; and although Canada stretches across an entire continent, and Switzerland is in the heart of Europe, hemmed in by mighty empires, sometimes in great danger, often menaced, fought with by more powerful nations, yet like the milk-white hind of Dryden,—

"Oft doomed to death, but fated not to die."

The commerce of that country at present exceeds *per capita* the commerce of any country in Europe. Her imports are about \$150,000,000, and her exports, I think, \$140,000,000. Notwithstanding the difference I have spoken of, we know, Sir, that there is an analogy between Canada and Switzerland in the produce of our dairies, in the produce of our corn-fields, in our mighty forests, and even in our Alpine scenery, which, if any of you have visited, you know that it need not blush even in the face of Mont Blanc. (Cheers.) There is a remarkable physical analogy between the countries and when you come to compare the systems of government there is a more remarkable analogy still. The very same questions that are relegated to the Provinces in Canada are relegated to the Cantons in Switzerland; and the very same questions that are relegated to the Federal Government in Canada are relegated to the Federal Government in Switzerland which meets at Berne. How many languages have you in the Parliament at Berne? Why, Sir, five language can be spoken there, and three of these are official. I am not saying that I approve of this. I am only stating facts from which deductions can be drawn. But here is my hon. friend, a statesman that might be a Gamaliel to me, at whose feet I ought to sit; here is my hon. and learned friend dilating on this question and telling us, in the face of the fact that Switzerland has endured since the 12th century, that it is the oldest republic that ever existed,