

even at that season of the year, taking that hazardous trip to go to the United States and seek employment. Some of my hon. friends who took the steamer to Georgetown told me that some half dozen young people were on that steamer also going to the United States. There, however, is just this difference between the state of things in past years and at the present moment. When the Liberal party were out of power they decried this country. My hon. friend sitting opposite me, as well as his friends all over the country, during all those years denounced this country. They exaggerated the exodus of our population. They cried blue ruin from one end of the country to the other, and it would not be at all surprising if during those years a greater exodus of the population had taken place, when the leaders of the Liberal party were telling the people that there was no hope for them if they remained in Canada, that they were being burdened with bad laws and taxation and that their only hope was to get out of the country. That was the cry of the hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House. Circumstances are changed now and we hear nothing of blue ruin to-day.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—You are trying to preach it now.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—No, I am glad of the change. It has brought to an end this practice of one of the great political parties of decrying and belittling their own country. But it does seem a sorry reflection to have to make with reference to the great leaders of one of our big political parties in Canada that in order to make them loyal and true to their country it has been necessary to give them office. It is not a very pleasant reflection. The price may have been high, but a very desirable object has been attained when these gentlemen have been called off in this policy of denunciation and condemnation of their own country. References have been made to another very important paragraph in the Speech which refers to the negotiations that have been carried on for a long time, over six months, I think, between Great Britain and the United States, with a view to settle the questions pending between the two countries. In regard to that I would say that the present government have been extremely fortunate in the opportunity that circumstances gave them in dealing

with these great international questions. We know what has happened within the last two years, more particularly within the last year, in the way of drawing the two great members of the Anglo-Saxon family together; of removing hostile or unfriendly feelings that existed between them. We know that a great deal has been accomplished in that direction, and it was very fortunate for the hon. gentlemen composing the government that these events occurred, removing some of the great difficulties which stood in the way of the settlement of the international difficulties in years gone by, and I will go so far as to say that, as far as circumstances beyond the control of gentlemen in the government were concerned, everything was in their favour; but as far as they had anything to do with shaping the circumstances themselves, everything was against them. We remember the very first step that was taken by the Premier in regard to this matter, to say nothing of the course pursued when they were in opposition. We know of their trips to Washington and of their Boston speeches, and their propaganda in Canada in favour of unrestricted reciprocity, and commercial union and we know of the celebrated interview which the Premier of Canada gave to a Chicago paper shortly after he assumed the government of Canada, all of which was to convey the impression on the minds of our neighbours that when these gentlemen came into power, and they came to treat, the United States would have almost everything their own way. The Premier of the country used almost those very words to the Chicago reporter: that the late government had been hostile to the United States, that the present government had been friendly to them, creating an impression in the United States which they were not slow to receive, that the time was come for obtaining most important concessions from Canada in the settlement of the questions pending between the two countries. Then after a visit to Washington on the part of two gentlemen connected with the government, we have the jubilee proceedings in England, and the so-called preferential tariff. Experience has proved that the preferential tariff has given no preference to Great Britain, that it has proved really advantageous to the United States, the best evidence of which is to be found in the enormous extension of