

into practice ; and perhaps some of the most important services of Mr. Hincks in those times were his long sustained and vigorous support of the claim for the constitutional system, into the struggle for which he threw himself with characteristic energy. (Cheers.) It was right in these quiet times to remember the fighting days gone by, and those to whom we owe in a large measure the privileges we now enjoy. He said these were fighting days, and it only required a passing reference to the Drummond and the Moffatt and DeBloury elections, during Lord Metcalfe's administration and the great party struggle which then went on, previous to the appointment of Lord Elgin. They would many of them recollect the day on which the Royal assent was given to the Rebellion Losses Bill, the events of that night when the Parliament Buildings were burnt. Perhaps some of them were out the following night when not over delicate attentions were paid to our guest of this evening and his colleagues, Mr. Lafontaine and others—(laughter); then the progress of Lord Elgin to old Government House, by Notre Dame Street, and the not very effective cavalry escort when he left after receiving the address of Parliament. On the other side of the river were marshalled the 'Prairie Hens,' as they were called, commanded by their old friend Captain Fortin, who was now doing more peaceful and very valuable service in promoting the telegraph system of the Lower St. Lawrence and Gulf. (Cheers.) If he referred to these matters it was principally to show the difficulties which then surrounded practical politics, and thus to bring out the extent and value of the services which their friend had rendered to Canada in face of obstacles that would have seemed almost insurmountable. There could be no doubt whatever that to Sir Francis Hincks we were indebted for the introduction of our railway system on a comprehensive scale, and especially in respect of the Grand Trunk Railway. (Cheers.) It had been always a matter of surprise to him that this fact had not been more generally recognized in the city of Montreal, which had, without doubt, been enormously benefitted by the increased facilities for travel and commerce thus created. He could recollect going to Toronto by stage when it sometimes took four days and three nights of incessant travel, and later, when Parliament sat in Toronto, which was best reached via Rouse's Point, Burlington, Schenectady, Niagara and Hamilton. The development of trade, consequent upon