

paratory labours, without preliminary researches, which must necessarily lead to fruitful results. I repeat that we must be governed by the protective principle in the preliminary studies which we are called to make with respect to the changing of the tariff. It is the principle by which the Government also must be governed in their fiscal policy. I know, Mr. Speaker, that these statements will not agree to all of us, but it must be understood—and I beg to be allowed to emphasize my sentiment by repeating the same idea—that we, Ministerial members, or rather, members who sit on the Government side, feeling, as we do, that the protective policy is necessary, it must be understood that the policy of the country must be essentially protective, that is to say, a policy aiming to make in the future the fortune of the country as it has done in the past. I am aware, Mr. Speaker, that this policy was, and is still, charged with making the fortune of a few and being an injury to the many. This was said in various circumstances, and it was stated again at the time of the great Liberal convention held in this town, last summer. As I understand it, this policy, defined in this way, is hardly defensible. But we know that by contending for the protection principle, we rely on the experience of the past, on the financial prosperity of our institutions, and we are in a position to state, by the returns which they furnish us, that this policy must be continued. We in the meantime assert that the protective principle does not make the fortune of only a few, but the good of all. Mr. Speaker, one section of the Speech from the Throne is devoted to the settlement of the troubles arising out of the fishing in the Behring Sea. On that point we are bound to congratulate the Government and to acknowledge that that was a happy event for us, for the country at large, for all the British subjects. That question, which was pending for many years, was a menace for our tranquillity and our interests. That difficulty was settled in a friendly way. When considering the settlement of that question, we ought to congratulate ourselves in so far as the principle was acknowledged that the British subjects have a right to fish in the Behring Sea, a right which the Government of the United States was disputing to them. We must acknowledge, Mr. Speaker, that the grievance, which was kept standing for so many years, being thus settled in a friendly way, we have a good ground to hope that in the future all these difficulties will be settled in the same way, and that, consequently, we will always be in a position to guard against the innumerable calamities of a war. Reference is made, in another section of the Speech from the Throne, to a new improvement: I mean the establishment of a line of fast steamers between England and the Dominion. It is a most important question, and one which will certainly deserve the attention of the Gov-

ernment and of this honourable House. But, Mr. Speaker, I may be allowed to make the following suggestion, namely, that it is a matter in which the whole Dominion is concerned, and that private interests could not be taken into consideration in settling the conditions of such a considerable enterprise, which ought to be excessively advantageous, but which will also require enormous sacrifices from our country. That question will have to be considered in the best way possible and with regard to its importance. Various other matters are brought to the attention of this House, but as to which we have no sufficient data to be well informed. I beg, however, to observe that, during the labours of the present session, we ought to bear in mind that protection should be granted, in the fullest way, to our farming community. No doubt, comfort is not as general as we would wish it to be, although there are no further hardships. Nevertheless, it is our duty to extend a helping hand to our farmers as far as possible; they surely are worthy of the attention of the Government, and I feel satisfied that the latter intend to protect the farming community. How far can that assistance go? I am not called upon to come down to details just now, but I hope the Government will give the matter their very earnest consideration and that the farmers, seeing how much the Government cares for them, will acknowledge, as much as the people in the cities, that the protective policy is decidedly the proper policy for the whole of our people. The Speech from the Throne concludes, Mr. Speaker, by a prayer offered by His Excellency to the Almighty. I beg to recall, before concluding, a remembrance of mine. In 1854, Lord Elgin, after many years of endeavours, had it granted by the Imperial Government that the Montmorency Laval school should be converted into a university. Her Majesty likewise granted to the Laval University all the privileges conferred to the highest universities in the United Kingdom. We then saw, in 1854, the highest personification of the English Church granting to the province of Quebec a Catholic university and conferring to it the same teaching rights as held by universities in the United Kingdom. Well, Mr. Speaker, we then saw the Pope, the highest personification of the Catholic Church, thanking Her Majesty the Queen Victoria for the immense favour granted. Is not the recalling of this remembrance proper, Mr. Speaker, and should we not say over again that, when Her Majesty the Queen Victoria and the Pope Pius the Ninth are seen exchanging relations of intimacy and congratulation on the occasion of such an important event, we ought to remember that both these examples should be followed and that we ought to work for the good understanding, the increase of the public wealth and the prevalence of peace amongst all our people. Let it be remembered, especially, that the love of labour must predominate and silence