

of fish and lumber on their western coast that we have in British Columbia, would be put on the same footing as ourselves. I said to them, 'you can readily understand that would be no advantage to us; we should be giving you free trade in these articles in Canada, while you, in extending reciprocity to us, would have to give it also to a foreign country, and until you petition the Imperial government to so amend your constitution as to give you the right of entering into reciprocal relations with your sister colonies, further negotiations are useless.' It is true they did take action, and all these difficulties were wiped out during the Queen's jubilee, and what has followed has been the union of the colonies so as to enable them in the future to do that which we have been endeavouring to accomplish in the past—have reciprocal relations between the sister colonies for the free exchange of our products. That is a policy which I think would suggest itself as being beneficial to all classes of the community. The tariff, I notice by a speech made a short time ago by the premier of that colony, is to be of a somewhat modified character. It will be, I am quite satisfied, to a greater or less extent of a protective character. He has also announced the fact that he is in favour of preferential trade with England, and hopes the time is not far distant when England will arrive at the conclusion that it is necessary to bind the colonies more closely to the empire by giving them some concessions in consideration of the preferences which we give them, and in that respect he takes the same line that some of the statesmen take in this country. I am not one of those who believe that England is so wedded to her free trade system as to refuse any concession to the colonies. Every year shows that the trade of other countries is making inroads upon that of England and she will be obliged ere long to adopt some other policy than that which has governed her for years past, and surely we as Canadians cannot object to having some concessions made to us when they arrive at that stage. The hon. the mover of the address intimated that the confederation of the different colonies of the empire had established what he might term three distinct nations; that is, the United States, Canada and the Australian colonies. I frankly confess that I do not like the expression, different nations. The confeder-

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tion of the different colonies, to my mind, instead of establishing what we might term independant nations, is only bringing the whole British Empire closer together, uniting closer the mother country with her people in the colonies, and not as establishing separate or distinct nationalities. We have arrived at a period when we have all the privileges which can possibly be granted to a people under one sovereign, and the longer we live the closer we will be united together by this system of confederation. I hope to live long enough to see the South African colonies combined under one government similar to that which exists in this country, and in the Australian colonies, and then we shall have, not another nation, but another confederacy bound closer to the mother country than ever before.

Hon. Mr. ELLIS—The thought in my mind was rather a swarm from the hive, carrying out those great principles of British liberty and British ideas in the founding of nations.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I accept that interpretation of the hon. gentleman's language, but his utterance conveyed a different idea. I have heard so often of late, and particularly by the premier of this country, whenever he has made a speech, of our having created a nation and looking forward to the time, in the not very distant future, when we shall occupy a very different position to that which we now occupy towards the mother country. I have no sympathy with that feeling directly or indirectly. The older I grow the more I am convinced that we ought, in our own interests, in the interests of liberty and humanity, to be closer bound to the mother country than ever in the past, until the time arrives when in speaking of a British subject in any of the colonies, we do not refer to him as a colonist, carrying the idea that he occupies an inferior position in the empire. It will be quite sufficient to know that we are British subjects, and that these words alone are sufficient to convey the idea that we are a part and parcel of the greatest empire that ever existed, enjoying the same rights and privileges in Canada and Australia as if to the manor born. That is what I hope to see ultimately. Some of us, youngsters, like the mover of