

came the union of 1867, by which it was supposed that all animosity of race and religion would be absorbed by the larger idea of Canadian nationality. The debates of the House of Commons since Confederation show that even under this larger union the dregs of religious and racial hate still remained, and I am not optimist enough to believe that they will be entirely eliminated for some years to come. I think it is clear, however, that such influences are steadily losing force, and as the conviction grows that we are becoming a more homogeneous people, those whose ambition may prompt them to appeal to passion and to prejudice will in the course of time seek some more honorable way for attaining distinction. Our growing strength in this way becomes a guarantee of internal peace and harmony.

(3) We have paved the way, in my opinion, for the rapid development of Canadian commerce. For over half a century Canada has been equipping herself at great expense for commercial ascendancy. On the construction and maintenance of our canals we have expended \$81,000,000, partly to meet the necessities of our own trade and partly to command the trade of the Western States. Such an expenditure is in itself pretty conclusive evidence that Canadians are not wanting in enterprise.

In railways we have invested \$899,817,900, of which \$212,655,000 have been contributed by the Government of the Dominion, the Governments of the Provinces and local municipalities—another evidence of Canadian enterprise. Besides, large amounts of money have been spent for the improvement of harbors and for lighting our coasts, all of inestimable commercial value. Municipalities have generously subsidized local enterprises of various kinds, and all the Provinces have given liberally for technical and agricultural education. Lands have been offered to the settler, free of charge, that he might grow food for himself and a surplus for the markets of the world. Our prairies, our mines and our forests have been abundantly advertised, and we are in the position of a merchant with a heavy stock of goods on his hands in every line, looking out for customers with whom he can trade. (Applause).

OUR TWO GREAT MARKETS.

For many years our attention has been divided between the markets of two countries—the United States and Great Britain. To say the least of it, the markets of the United States have been fluctuating and unsatisfactory. Every commercial crisis in the American Republic reacted with tremendous force upon the trade of Canada, and, still worse, the periodical changes of American tariffs rendered the investment of capital and the establishment of commercial intercourse very uncertain. During this jubilee year we have, however, turned our attention more earnestly than ever before towards the markets of Great Britain. To my mind this circumstance will hereafter be just as notable in the history of Canada commercially as the evolution of a more generous loyalty to Britain will be politically. (Cheers).

Let me give a few reasons: Great Britain imported in 1896 for home consumption \$790,000,000 worth of food products, all of which, with the exception of tea, sugar and fruit, and some minor articles amounting to about \$100,000,000, can be produced in Canada. For instance, in 1896 she imported 130,000,000 bushels of wheat, of which Canada supplied only 10,000,000; she imported 12,000,000 barrels of flour, of which Canada supplied only 90,000 barrels; she imported 5,500,000 bushels of peas, of which Canada supplied only 1,400,000 bushels; she imported 58,000,000 bushels of oats, of which Canada supplied only 500,000 bushels; she imported 52,500,000 bushels of barley, of which