

prosper. Our revenue has been adequate for our purposes meeting all claims upon it, while in the United States, they have a deficit of about \$100,000,000. That we have escaped such a financial calamity is owing to our stable, certain and sure protective policy. If it had not protected our industries our position would be no better than theirs. I have already referred to the Behring Sea award, which suggest to me the fact that by the force of Canada's position and compulsion of circumstances, the statesmen of the Dominion have become the statesmen of our great empire. They have been sought by England in the discussion of some of the most vital questions involving the rights and interests of the empire, and their advice has been essential to the wise conduct and to the maintenance of the just rights of our country, and they have been worthily honoured. It is a matter of pride to us, as colonists and as members of the great empire, that we have men who are capable of holding important positions under our sovereign, men in whom the empire has sufficient confidence to place them in high and important positions to deal with matters in which the empire at large, and especially this part of it, is deeply interested.

The next paragraph intimates that it is not intended to change the principle on which our tariff is based. I hope that the Government will not be influenced by any interest, or any section, or by any class in the community, to depart from the sound principles which have guided them thus far, and that in any change they may make in the tariff they will have a due regard to the interest of the whole Dominion. That is the position they have maintained in the past and which I hope they will continue to maintain. We should be careful in all that we do to keep our operatives in this country. They are a source of wealth to the Dominion, and we should be careful not to adopt any policy which may injure the industries in which they are engaged. On the contrary, we should seek to multiply those industries and thus build up the Dominion. We must be jealous of and ever ready to guard and protect their rights and interests. If we should do anything which would lead our operatives to desert us, it would be a blow to the development of the country.

Some remarks have been made with regard to the ocean steamship service. I am glad

that the leader of this House was sent to Australia with a view of increasing our trade with the Australian colonies. I am satisfied that whatever he said or did while on that mission was in the true interest of Canada, and that we shall soon hear of beneficial results from his trip. Already we have had an intimation that delegations will be sent to this country from the Australian colonies to confer on questions affecting the trade between Australia and Canada, with a view to establishing a closer connection commercially between these two great sections of the empire. It is only by means of a steamship line, and what of necessity must follow, a cable between Australia and Canada, that such closer connection can be brought about and successfully prosecuted. I believe that before many years the interests of Australia and Canada will be so blended together that they will only wonder that they were so long separated.

There has been some reference to the Dominion lands in the Address. I do not know what the measure is to be, but if it in any way affects the settlement of those lands it is a question of great importance to Canada. We have a splendid country in the North-west, with great capabilities and great resources, and it is in the interest of the Dominion that they should be settled as rapidly as possible, and that immigrants, when they come to this country will find ready means of communication with the unsettled territories in that part of Canada. If they find the country a desirable one, they will be the best immigration agents. They will report to their friends abroad what they find here, and their success will encourage others to join them. Therefore it is to our interest, as far as we can, to place every immigrant well that he may send a favourable report abroad to his friends. It was by such means that the United States filled up their country and it is the way that we can succeed in filling up ours. Settlers should be directed to the best lands and those easiest of access. We all know that prosperous settlers are the best emigration agents—their friends and neighbours come by their reports and advice. We may soon expect immigrants not only from Europe, but from the United States, who find this a better country. All the best lands in that country have been taken up, and of late the capabilities and resources of our own vast territory are becoming better known. It is our