

all about that; but on the other hand there are some things which we value more than an improvement in our material condition, and we might be asked to give up more than the improvement in our material condition would be worth; consequently, it might be that the member for St. John would not be really at heart favorable to annexation, even though he pointed out in his newspaper the advantages which might result from it. For my own part, I think it is best for us to go on as we are now doing under our existing constitution, and do the best we can to govern Canada as she ought to be governed. I only hope that hon. gentlemen opposite will try to govern the country more in accordance with the interests of the Dominion than they have been doing during the past few years.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—My hon. friend from Halifax, as usual, casts a gloomy horoscope for the future of Canada. He seems to see nothing hopeful in its present condition or its future prospects. I may tell my hon. friend and his colleagues that until they are more hopeful and have more confidence in the country itself and its future greatness, so long as they take a pessimistic view of the future of the Dominion, they must expect to remain in the cold shades of opposition. My hon. friend, however, has improved wonderfully upon the position he assumed on former occasions. I will not follow him with regard to the sentiments he has expressed on the question of changing our allegiance. A question of that kind is too absurd for argument here, and I am surprised that my hon. friend should utter such sentiments, or that a gentleman who has taken the oath of allegiance to Her Majesty should utter the sentiments which the hon. gentleman from St. John did in the public press, and that my hon. friend finds himself obliged, when the matter is incidentally mentioned, to furnish some excuses for his political friend's conduct, which cannot be respected by Canadians, who are proud of the land of their birth and who look upon its future with hope and confidence. What I approve of in the Speech on the present occasion is that it foreshadows nothing new. This has been a year at least free from serious disasters. There are very few Government

measures suggested or required. The legislation is to be more by way of revision, amendment and reform. It is a conservative policy and conservative practice to prove all things and hold fast that which is good. In that policy I believe that the legislation which the Government proposed is designed for and will largely promote the trade and development of the resources of this country. Any legislation which will create an opportunity to utilize to its fullest extent the advantages of our geographical position and develop our internal wealth and our trade resources will meet with the hearty support of the country. I am surprised that my hon. friend should take such a despondent view of those measures which tend to promote the prosperity of the Dominion. The leader of the Opposition has pointed out that the tendency of our trade was with the United States, and that despite our present tariff policy that tendency would increase. But what have we found? Up to the present day, under the new policy, the tendency of our trade has been towards England and not towards the United States. I am not surprised that the hon. gentleman from Halifax should ask this Government to adopt a different policy, because he wants the Government to come to this, the Opposition side of the House, so that he and his friends can get to the other side. The people have shown, however, that they do not want any such change of Government, and the people of the United States have shown that they do not want reciprocity. When the Opposition were in power in '74 the Hon. Geo. Brown was sent to Washington to negotiate a Reciprocity Treaty. What did the United States Congress do on that question? They repudiated a measure which would have given us a large amount of reciprocity in trade, and our public men then declared that we had humiliated ourselves too much by begging for closer trade relations with our neighbors, and the very gentlemen with whom my hon. friend is identified have spurned and repudiated the idea of this country endeavoring to make any further advances, concessions or overtures to the United States. We find the Government in power in the United States to-day are stronger protectionists even than the Government than went out, though the expecta-