

"I deny that we are a burden to the empire. I say that if to-morrow Canada was discovered from the Crown of England, if to-morrow Canada became a portion of that great republic, which lies to the south of us, England could not reduce her army by a man or her navy by a ship. She would want more soldiers and sailors and ironclads than she has to-day in order to maintain her prestige. I say, if this great continent was closed, as closed it would be to the ships of England, under the circumstances I have named, if they had no harbour in which to run or a place where they can obtain a ton of coal or a spar, instead of England being strengthened, she would be enormously weakened. Her power in the Pacific, her possessions in India and China would be imperilled, and her prestige as a nation entirely changed. Instead of relieving her from any charge for diplomatic services, or her army or her navy, it would impose greater burdens upon the tax-payers of Great Britain than at present. I deny that we are a burden. There is not a pound of British money spent in the Dominion of Canada, from end to end, for any Canadian purpose."

"I have a word or two more to say with reference to the defence of the empire. They say: Why should Canada with her enormous mercantile marine, her sails whitening every sea, not contribute from her resources to the defence of the empire? I say she does. I say Canada is discharging that duty nobly and well. No person holds more strongly than I do to the unquestionable duty of every British subject, wherever he may be found, to contribute to the support of the defence of this great empire. If you are going to strengthen a fortification, what would you strengthen? The strongest or the weakest part? Of course, the weakest. Where is the weakest part? It is in England, in the United Kingdom, or Canada, or Australia? No person can question that if England was engaged in war with any great power in the world, they would strike, not in its strongest but weakest part, and therefore, if you wish to strengthen the defences of the empire, to increase the power to resist invasion, the best way to accomplish this, I have no hesitation in saying, is by looking after Canada. Those who say that Canada contributes nothing to the defence of the empire must be very ignorant of facts, at all events, and I would recommend them to peruse a little of that very interesting literature contained in blue books."

M. Tupper fait alors l'inventaire de nos grandes entreprises publiques; le C.P.R., les canaux, etc., et il ajoute:

"But some might answer that this work is not done for that purpose, but for commercial purposes. So much stronger is our claim. The greatest, the most important, the most vital question, in connection with the defence of Canada, which means the defence of one of the most important sections of the great empire, is to people it. This railway, although a commercial line, opens up this magnificent granary of the world for settlements by stout hearts and strong arms, not only from Great Britain, but by the best men from Scandinavia and Germany and as brave defenders of British institutions as native-born Canadians."

Puis, ajoutant à l'intérêt du capital placé dans ces œuvres nationales, le coût annuel de la milice et de la police montée, il conclut en ces termes:

"Is not this assisting in the defence of the empire? There is no way of contributing better to this object than in this practical manner in which we are spending annually \$10,000,000 for services of the most vital importance alike to Canada and Great Britain. I do not intend to detain you any longer than to say I am quite sure it was only right for me to seize an opportunity—the only one I have had in Canada—to say something upon this question of Imperial federation, and of pointing out what, in my judgment, is the fallacy and the mistaken policy of those who have adopted the line of advocating the unity of the empire upon a basis calculated, in my judgment, not to promote that unity, but to destroy it."