

twelve millions of a population. We have to-day eight millions and we should be able not only to assume the responsibility of defending ourselves, but to show the world that we are a nation within an empire. We are no longer colonists under the rule of Downing street. We are a nation, and we want to stand as one people upon this naval question. Some day we will be a nation of forty or fifty millions of people, and with the other over-seas possessions will be able to assist England in preserving the peace of the world. Now, what are we going to do to show that we are doing our part in the defence of the empire. Is it best to give money? I do not think so. I would have compulsory service in the navy. We should have something like France and Germany have; every man should take his part in training to assist in the defence of his country. There is nothing to be gained by borrowing money to give it to the British Admiralty; it would be far better to train men to help to fight the battles of the Empire. I think we should sustain the government in voting any amount of money they demand to have a fleet of our own. We can build ships on the St. Lawrence, on the Lakes and on the coast. We should begin by providing our own docks, and they should be the property of the nation and sustained by the nation. Let us make a start and be prepared to build ships. We have as good facilities for building ships here as Harlan & Wolfe have at Belfast. They had to begin in a small way without iron or coal and they have built up an immense industry. We are in as good a position at Halifax for shipbuilding as they are at Belfast. Even if it does cost a little more to construct a ship here it is better to have the work done by Canadians in Canada. Our revenue is increasing rapidly. We have to remember that with the immense growth of the country, with population pouring in, there will be a greater consumption of imported goods. Our factories, stimulated to increase their production and the revenue of the country, will go on increasing. Unless we meet with some terrible disaster we ought soon to be in a position to build up a navy for our own protection and to become a nation that no other nation in the

world can touch. We have no malaria and no fever such as they have in southern countries; we have the country to produce hardy men and the best grain. In my opinion we should build our own ships. We need not of necessity begin to construct them at once but we could prepare for their construction by building docks and providing the necessary machinery.

As to the tariff, I have always been a free trader; I was forced into protection by circumstances. It was thought that by protection we would be able to place the manufacturers on their feet and get new industries established in the country which, without a little assistance, would not be in existence to-day. I thought that was right and I surrendered my views on that occasion, but to-day with such an immense influx of population and with the revenue increasing so rapidly, I think the tariff is too high. The manufacturers are rolling in wealth, while the poorer men are getting little benefit in the way of higher wages, and the cost of living is increasing. Protection does not put more money in the pockets of the poor man; it goes into the pockets of the manufacturer. The tariff should be reduced ten per cent on all manufactured goods. That ten per cent reduction would give the country such a large revenue that we could pay for a fleet without feeling the strain. Who would lose that ten per cent? The manufacturers would lose some of it, but they should be prepared to divvy up.

I have little to say about the banks; they are a necessary evil. They say to-day that money is tight; when was it not tight? The bankers do not know it all; they are not sound men; the sound men are the Jews. They know the art of handling money and of making it produce. If you asked your banker to-day what about the rubber production of Timbuctoo, he would say 'I never heard of it.' The knowledge of the banker is limited. He may be educated and live and die in sanctity, but he does not know it all. I do not know what the Government proposes to do with the banks, but I can tell them that he public thinks that too much of Canada's money is invested in the United States.