

that state of beatitude in which there is no marriage or giving in marriage; are the people of the maritime provinces too good to live; what on earth can the cause be? Sir, it was not always so. If all tales be true, it was not so when good Sir Charles was young, but I fear that he has been succeeded by a more effete generation. I would like to ask the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster), how he explains that in spite of all the beneficent effects of the National Policy, and the vigorous exertions of the great Liberal-Conservative party in New Brunswick, the total addition to the population of that province in ten years, is barely six and thirty souls; and I am credibly informed, though I will not pledge myself to the fact that more than that number have been during that interval been added to the inhabitants of the principal lunatic asylum in the city of St. John.

Sir, in sober seriousness, let me ask this House whether they consider a state of things that now exists creditable or honourable to Canada? Here we stand five millions strong, with half a continent at our disposal, and we have scarcely at this moment one single family to the square mile of habitable land under our control. Our population has been increasing during these eighteen years at a much lower ratio than the populations of older and more densely peopled European countries. In this very House I can look round on over 200 representatives from various parts of Canada, and I doubt if you could pick out twenty men in this assembly who have not at this moment some near and dear relative living in the United States. I ask if that state of things should continue. I say it should not; and I believe that it will be proved shortly that we have turned over a new leaf, that we have taken a new departure, and that the 23rd of April will be marked in the Canadian calendar as doubly a red-letter day—as being first of all, the day on which my hon. friend introduced his tariff—and most appropriately it came into force on St. George's Day—the day on which Canada awoke from an evil trance, and shook the scales from her eyes and the fetters from her limbs—the day on which Canada set her face towards higher aims and a nobler destiny, towards honest government, towards the true development of her resources, towards placing the relations of the Empire upon a sounder basis, and towards a fiscal policy which, whatever its faults may be, honestly aims at fair play and equal justice to all classes in this Dominion.

Mr. McNEILL. As my hon. friend mentioned my name and suggested that perhaps, for party reasons, I might be inclined to support a policy of which I did not approve, or to oppose a policy of which I did approve, would he be kind enough to tell me whether he considers this offer to England an offer of preferential trade?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. I tell the hon. gentleman that this is an offer of preferential trade to all countries that are qualified to come in—that it is, in fact, a preferential offer to England, because that is the country of all others which will profit most by accepting the offer; and a remarkable contrast to the practical result of the National Policy, which succeeded in almost destroying our trade with Great Britain, or at any rate, in reducing it from \$60,000,000 to \$30,000,000 in a very few years.

It being Six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

After Recess.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Mr. Speaker, I entirely agree with the statement made by the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) in his speech delivered this afternoon, that this is a very grave crisis in the history of Canada, and I do not think he at all over-stated the importance of the measure that is now placed before the House. I confess, Sir, that I listened with the most profound astonishment to the speech delivered by the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding). I did not suppose it possible, whether in one section of the Empire or another, for a great Parliament such as that which the Dominion of Canada possesses, to have presented for its consideration a Bill of such an entirely illegal and unconstitutional character. I have no hesitation in saying that you will search the history of parliamentary government throughout the British Empire in vain to find any parallel for the position in which we find ourselves in relation to the Budget speech of the hon. Minister of Finance. Unfortunately, this country has been suffering in the most severe manner for a year in connection with the change of Government. This country has had its commercial and financial transactions seriously hindered and embarrassed by the fact that a year ago it was known that we were on the eve of a general election, and that it was quite possible that a party pledged to destroy every vestige of protection, to radically change the fiscal policy of Canada, might be brought into power. The result of that election more than accounts for the small deficit with which the last year closed. The uncertainty that existed was abundantly sufficient to account for that deficit. But, Sir, the long-suffering people of Canada—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Yes, I say that those who for the last twelve months have been on the tenter-hooks of expectation, those who felt that their dearest interests might be imperilled, those who felt that the means of sustaining themselves and their families might be swept away, looked forward with confidence and hope and expect-