

cannot be accused of over stimulating her manufactures. If any country is a free trade country she is—especially in cotton, woollens and iron—and what do we find? Unfortunately, stagnation,—hundreds of mills and factories closed, thousands of persons unemployed, and her shipping industry in great distress.

I will now take the United States, with a high protective tariff, and what do we find? Just the same condition of things which prevails in England. So that under free trade, and protection, commercial countries are evidently doomed to periodical waves of depression. I will leave the political economist to solve the problem—which of the two systems creates the evil—reserving to myself the opinion that a moderate fostering of our young industries, such as we have in Canada, is the wisest course.

I have no doubt but our manufacturers, who deserve every praise and encouragement, will, with experience, learn to gauge their productions so as to correspond with the demand, and thereby avoid the fluctuations to which business is now liable. The farmers of this country, with their surplus grain, although prices are low, are most fortunate compared with those of England and other parts of Europe. Here the farmer is his own landlord. With no rents or poor rates to pay he can afford to hold his stock for better times, whereas in Europe rents and taxes are very high and must be paid, and the farmer is compelled to sell his produce, however low the market may be, to meet those demands. Our farmers then, with more than abundance to eat and drink, may be congratulated on their condition.

We can only judge of the position of our country by comparing it with that of others, and I think hon. gentlemen will agree with me that the prospects and condition of the Dominion compare favorably with those of any other country.

It is very gratifying to know that the cumulative testimony of disinterested and distinguished persons continues to confirm the favorable impressions previously formed of the adaptability of the Canadian North-West as a field for immigration, where every man may be his own landlord, and where with ordinary industry he may live in comfort and peace. It is pleasing to know that a reasonable addition was

made in the past year to the population of that country. A moderate tide of immigration, which the country can conveniently absorb, is more to be desired than too rapid a flow, which from its volume might have to endure some privation. We are pleased to know that every facility will be given for the acquisition and transfer of land in that country.

The Act relating to the representation of the people, and the measure confirming the arrangement with Manitoba, will, I am sure, receive the best consideration of this House, as well as all those other measures referred to in the Speech from the Throne.

The issuing of a Commission to enquire into the various phases of the Chinese question was, no doubt, the best course to take; especially in view of the very extreme opinions held by some persons on this question.

In a free country, Chinamen as well as persons of other nationalities, have their rights and privileges, so long as they conform to the laws of the country. The Chinaman has undoubted rights, but my opinion on this subject I will defer to some other time.

It is most cheering and encouraging to know that the revenue of the country is in such a prosperous condition, and this is doubly gratifying when the shrinkage in trade during the past year is taken into consideration.

Then again, the credit of the country never stood higher in the London money market than it does now; nor has a colonial loan ever been negotiated at so low a rate of interest as that negotiated last year.

The substantial wealth of the country also has greatly increased in railways and other improvements, and notably so in the money savings of the people which increased by two millions in the past year. So that taking all in all, we have reason to be satisfied with the state of our country.

There is a subject of some importance to which I may briefly allude, of which I consider the Colonies may feel proud. That is, the desire on the part of many eminent statesmen for closer union with the Colonies—a federation of all the Colonies with the Empire. Whether such a grand scheme can be perfected it would