

enterprise continues to take hold and work in unison with them, as it is doing every day more and more, the future of this country, on account of that equipment and the facilities given thereby, is assured; and for the sake of that future, the country will cheerfully bear the burdens imposed upon it by the building of these great lines of communication. Now, Sir, I come to the second part of my duty this afternoon, and I must beg the indulgence of this rather worn and tired House. After the long fight of the night, I will try not to trespass on its patience any longer than is really necessary to set forth, in a very brief way, what I propose to lay before the House in the shape of changes and emendations in the tariff. I suppose it will be taken for granted that in bringing down certain resolutions to-day I am not going to propose anything that will interfere very materially with the system of reasonable protection which was assured to this country in 1878 and 1879, and which has been retained since. Hon. gentlemen who passed through the long and able discussions of 1878 and the succeeding years will know that if ever a matter was well argued and thoroughly discussed, the changes involved in the tariff of 1879 and the principles which underlay it were well discussed, were ably argued, and were settled as thoroughly as any question could be settled, by intelligent discussion and consideration of everything involved. Sir, it was stated in 1878, and in 1879—and I think my hon. friend from North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) was one who indulged in some, as they have proved, fanciful imaginings at that time—that the system of protection which was then devised would be short lived, and would die chiefly because the system of protection in the great country bordering on ours to the south was doomed, where free trade principles were even then coming quickly into the ascendant, and that in a little time the protective system of that country would be a thing of the past, and with it would pass away any system of protection which we were building up in Canada. That prediction has not been ruined, and every succeeding year in the legislative history of the United States goes to prove that the principle of protection has received no set-back in that country; but to-day, after an election run, not between free trade and protection but upon the question of a higher or lower degree of protection, the Republican party, which went to the country on the ground of an increased protection, came back from the polls strengthened, and to-day holds its majority in both Houses of Congress; and if what we see reported in the papers is a foreshadowing of what may be expected to happen, we may find that legislation which is imminent there will not disturb the protection

which has been given to the great manufacturing industries of that country, but may proceed a little further in some directions than even the legislation which has been in existence there for the last ten years. As nothing has taken place in the history and condition of the United States to make us believe their protective policy will be abandoned, so nothing has occurred in the wider history of European countries to show that the principles of protection have taken light root and are not held as strongly as they were, even more strongly than they have been for a number of years past. Nor have any circumstances arisen in the Dominion of Canada which make it necessary, or reasonable, or prudent, that, once having set our hand to the plough, and determined under existing circumstances to fairly and reasonably protect our growing industries, we should now look back and disturb, in any material way, the reasonable system of protection which this country has declared for, under which it has prospered and under which it is expected to prosper for many a year to come. I know I will be said to be tinkering with the tariff, and thereby offending against some special eternal principles which underlie tariffs when I introduce my resolutions for some changes in this tariff. But it seems to me that tariffs are, in the main, a device for the raising of revenue and the protecting of the interests of the country, and that they are not like confessions of faith, which, when once settled, must endure for centuries; but, being such a device, they will change according to the circumstances of the country and according to the needs of the peculiar time in which they are operative. And just as conditions change, the conditions in the country and out of the country, so it becomes necessary that alterations from time to time shall be made in the tariff to keep up its original idea of reasonably fair protection to industries which it is proper and right to protect in the country. If values change, then the relative protection that was given by specific or by *ad valorem* duties certainly change with them. If new products come into existence they must have a category in which to be placed, and in order to prevent constant disputes in practically carrying out the Customs laws, provision has to be made for them in sections of the tariff laws. The same is true when new industries open up—and new industries are continually opening up; and it is the pride and the gratification of the party on this side of the House that within the last ten years and under the influences of the tariff which has been the law in this country new industries have sprung up as by magic in this Dominion; and if we look to-day at the quality, at the variety, at the quantity of manufactured articles, as compared with ten years ago, it is astonishing to see the progress which has been made in the various industries throughout this country. So that not only is it not my intention to interfere, in these resolutions, with the principle and the policy which has been adopted by this Government and by this party, but it is not my intention to be frightened by the cry that we are continually tinkering with the tariff and so be prevented from introducing changes which are necessary. At the same time, I hold it to be true, that it is neither wise nor prudent to be making too frequent changes in the tariff, because the gen-