

selves and our neighbours to the south of us. The tendency of Canada now is to rapid growth. That is universally recognized. Canada will be the home of probably as fine a class of people as will be found anywhere on the globe, and for this reason Canada will have, has now even, according to its population, a larger proportion of the agricultural class, who certainly form the very best yeomanry that any country can possess, not a class holding their lands under a feudal system, but a class absolutely independent, owning their own farms and rapidly developing into the possession of comforts that are unknown by farmers of any other country, and therefore with an intelligent class that will live in Canada and with the popular system of government we have we need have no fears for the future. We know that the friendship between Great Britain and the United States is year by year increasing which, of course, is some guarantee that we are in less danger than we might otherwise be. Unfortunately, in the past, Canada has had to contribute to the cementing of that friendship. Perhaps it was best in the end because our neighbours were a very large population, with a vast area of country that they had occupied in advance of us, and they had certain advantages in position which were superior to those we hold. If one were disposed to review all that Great Britain has done to conciliate the Republic to the south of us, he would be perfectly amazed at the serenity and calmness of the Canadian people at the great sacrifices which they have had to submit to in order to preserve a state of friendship between Great Britain and the United States. We know what a very small part of the continent to the south of us was occupied by the thirteen colonies which obtained their independence in 1785. We know how comparatively limited was the purchase made of what is called Louisiana, which carried the thirteen colonies up in the direction of St. Louis. The portion which belonged to Canada, occupying a range of country extending in a line west of Lake Erie, embracing a great part of Michigan, Illinois, Iowa, and the country along that line over to the Pacific, was part of the country that had been conceded to Britain by France in 1759. That was all given up simply because the United

States desired to possess it. It was not thought worth while in those days, when that concession was made, to hold it for the young colony on the north side of the lakes and along the River St. Lawrence. We know how the Ashburton Treaty was carried out—how a good part of the state of Maine was carved out of Canadian territory, even against the protest of the people who lived within it. I need not refer to more modern conditions, because they are all so fresh in the minds of hon. gentlemen. I merely mention this to show how great the sacrifices have been on the part of Canada in order that Great Britain might be permitted to cement a friendship with the United States. I trust there is no need to do it at present. I think our manhood will cause us in the future to stand up at least for our rights, and I think the good sense too of the people of the United States will recognize that Canada has rights. Our population is rapidly increasing and we are receiving pretty large numbers of United States people who are coming over and investing their money in Canada, and the Dominion is becoming better known not only in Great Britain, but also in the country to the south of us.

The change in the fiscal year requires very little comment. It will be very much more satisfactory hereafter if our fiscal year corresponds with the business year of the country, which is practically our summer season. During the winter very little business, with foreign countries at all events, is done. Our trade, both import and export, is largely in the summer months. My hon. friend agreed in the change of date, but he thought we would scarcely be able to get the departmental reports in time. He has, however, overlooked the fact that the time is the same—it will be seven months from the 31st of March to the end of November, just as it is now, from the 30th June to the beginning of February. On the first occasion we shall have to use them, I have no doubt we may have some trouble, but in the following session, which will perhaps be held at the beginning or end of November next, and which will probably extend to the month of March, with a considerable adjournment at Christmas, the tariff will be the subject during the month of November and December,