

the other hand, to the constant demand made by the Provinces on the Treasury of the Dominion. I say that our present system is as bad as bad can be; I say that it is faulty in every possible respect; I say that it is unsound, both in principle and practice, and is contrary to every constitutional doctrine by which representative countries have ever been governed. What does it mean? It means that one body of men are to spend the money and another to find it. Could you devise a system which does more mischief, which gives of necessity more encouragement to bribery, which offers a more direct premium to extravagance than the policy the hon. gentlemen opposite have initiated. (*Hear, hear.*) They were not to blame perhaps for the introduction of the system of subsidies in the first instance, because it is probable Confederation could not have been brought about otherwise; but they are to blame, and they have been to blame, after Confederation was once brought about, for destroying the financial basis on which Confederation rested.

THE TRUE REMEDY.

The remedy I offer is revision of the constitution. We may have to pay handsomely for past folly, but almost at any cost it is better that we should establish matters on a firm and stable basis, that the Provinces should go their way and manage their own affairs, and the Dominion Parliament for the future go its way and manage its own affairs. The second remedy is the one indicated by me and my friends here in our places last year. That remedy is to seek for trade relations where alone really valuable enlarged trade relations can be found. It is to seek for them within our reach and at our door, not 10,000 miles away—not in the Antipodes, not to go to South America for what we can get ten times better in North America and at one-twentieth of the cost and trouble (*loud cheers*); but let me say that if ever official returns spoke in trumpet tones in confirmation of the policy advocated on this side and the line we took last year, they are the identical trade returns I have in my hand. What are the facts? I have mentioned them before, but they will bear reciting again. What do these returns tell us? They tell us that last year, out of a total trade of \$193,050,000, we had a trade with the United States of \$91,053,913; they tell us that out of a total volume of exports of our own produce