

ties? He realized what might take place. The cementing together of the different colonies was to form the strong arm of the empire in a time of need, and he goes so far as to say that when the empire is at war with all the other nations, Canada, Australia, and the confederated provinces in different parts of the world, which owed their allegiance to the Crown, would be ready to assist the mother country in any difficulty in which she might be found. I have read that to the House in order that it may be brought again to the minds of the senators, and in reply to the charge which has been made against that hon. gentleman. I could go on to show that the present Premier in the debates which took place not many years ago, when the late D'Alton McCarthy was advocating the principle of Imperial federation, that Sir Wilfrid Laurier, then in opposition, denounced the theory of Imperial federation, and gave as a reason why he was opposed to it, that the time might come when Canada would be called upon to enter into the wars in which England was constantly engaged. Do we see that unity of action—not only unity of action but that unity of sentiment and of opinion prevailing in the present government to which I referred a moment ago as to the sending of contingents that should exist? The Minister of Public Works, upon a number of occasions—and only the other day in Toronto, declared strongly in favour of Imperial federation—that he hoped the time would come when Canadian representatives would be found sitting at Westminster, and that they would then have something to say in the management of Imperial affairs. The Premier said, and I have not heard or read an utterance from him in which he has departed from that sentiment, that he is totally opposed to Imperial federation for the reason which I have given. This question is one on which I have occupied a considerable time, but there is much more I could say on the subject but defer it. There are one or two other things in this address which require consideration. Those who have had something to do with, and have some little recollection of the votes of the past are not a little surprised at the statements which have been made in reference to the carrying trade of this country. Let any one read

the speeches made by the premier and those who form his government—I except my hon. friend opposite (Hon. Mr. Mills) because I have not seen any utterance of his of the character to which I have referred—and one would readily think that this government had inaugurated and carried out the canal system of the country, and this address indicates the very same idea, because it goes on to point out what 'my' government (of course the Governor did not write this) has done in opening up waterways to develop the trade of the Great West. And Sir Wilfrid, a short time ago in Toronto, spoke of the immense amount of money that had been expended by the government. My government has done this, and my government has done that in order to develop the great resources of this country, is the constant cry. A reference to the Public Accounts will show that before these gentlemen had the responsibility of office upon their shoulders, and before they arrogated to themselves the formation of this contingent as well as the canals and waterways, you will find that the late government—that is the government of Sir John Macdonald, immediately after confederation, the government which followed it under the Hon. Alex. Mackenzie, and for 17 years afterwards, had very nearly completed these canals, when the present government took charge of them. They now claim for themselves the credit of all that was done by their predecessors. The Sault Ste. Marie Canal was suggested and carried out and completed and paid for to the extent of \$3,448,961 before the advent of these gentlemen to office. It is true they spent \$222,056 afterwards in order to round it up and to thoroughly complete it. It is not necessary I should inform this House why that expenditure was made. Up to 1896 the government had expended on the Welland Canal \$24,158,786. The present government have expended in the completion of the Welland Canal system \$59,368 and for which they claim the credit of making the canal fourteen feet deep. The Murray Canal had cost \$1,278,700, and that was completed before these gentlemen came into office. The Cornwall Canal had had \$6,087,936 expended on it up to 1896, and the present government in order to complete it, up to the time these figures could be reached had spent half a million dollars.