

guardian, their protector, their angelic visitant. We thought he had acted in this respect so as to deserve that title, and felt justified in applying to him the title which they had given him. We believed there was good result to be achieved by pursuing the plain, practical, business-like course which was, as soon as the United States had given notice of the discontinuance of the treaty upon the avowed ground that its continuance after the expiration of the time might be considered a practical recognition of the justice of the whole terms, including the compensation, to approach the Government of that country with reference to the question whether an understanding could be reached; by which means results would have been achieved one way or the other, and we would have been a year ago where we are to-day, unless some more favorable results would have been realised; and if it be the case, as the hon. member for St. John (Mr. Everett) says, that in a very little while grand markets for the fish products of the country are going to be found elsewhere, and after a little while the people of the country will refuse to return to freer intercourse with the United States, being in a much better condition under the arrangements which are going to follow from the failure of the hon. gentleman's negotiations,—I say we have postponed for a year that happy result. I regard, I confess, with some degree of apprehension, the situation. I agree that some steps have to be taken, and I do not condemn what is announced rather guardedly in the Speech; but what our relations with our neighbors are to be in the new situation in which we are placed, what is to be the solution of the headland question, which was unhappily left unadjusted in the former negotiations, and what complications may occur from the projected policy, are questions which must press themselves on our minds, but which I do not now refer to further, not knowing the precise state of the case, and in the absence of papers, which I hope are to be brought down, showing more fully what is the position of the Imperial authorities and what is that of the United States. The Speech says that the country is prosperous, and His Excellency has been advised to extend to us his congratulations upon that prosperity. The hon. member for St. John (Mr. Everett) a little mitigated the rigor of this prosperous phrase, when, in his account of the condition of the country as one of the countries of the civilised world, and also in the particulars with which he was good enough to favor us as evidencing what the condition of things was in his own Province, he told us, it is true, there is commercial depression all over the world. I read in the newspapers, which are sometimes accurate, a statement made by the hon. gentleman a little time ago, amongst his own people when soliciting their suffrages, to this effect: "We are now passing through some of the worst times we have had for years." I do not know whether he was having a bad time just then himself, or whether he thought that was the sort of thing most suited for the atmosphere of St. John, and that the reverse was the sort of thing most suited to Ottawa; but such is the important statement of the hon. gentleman when speaking to his own people. The hon. gentleman gave us a very lucid explanation of the cause of the difficulties among the manufacturers. They had not, he said, enough money; they had used up their funds, they had got to the bottom of the stocking and they failed; but if they had had only more money they would have lasted longer. Why did the man starve? Because he had not enough to eat. He told us indeed of the St. John cotton factory. I wonder has he ever heard of Parks & Son's factory of St. John, with a capital of over \$300,000, and which was sold within a few months for the mortgage on it of \$55,000, the second mortgagee being the Bank of Nova Scotia on \$66,000, which wealthy corporation would bid no more. I do not want to enter into these details, but as the hon. gentleman talked of one factory which failed for

want of capital, I give him another, and I could give him the Halifax sugar refinery and others which had to shut down because they had spent their capital unprofitably, and no more was to be found. The hon. gentleman had better apply to hon. gentlemen opposite who have control of the purse, for succor. They might provide a little out of the deficit or add to the war debt to supply a larger capital to the factories. The hon. gentleman says he has had personal experience in the matter. Yes; he assisted in the winding up of some of the institutions, and in every case, singular to say, his experience was the same; they all broke down because their money came to an end. The hon. gentleman says there is one thing that is very satisfactory, and that is, if the people of the United States will not make arrangements with us they cannot do without our fish; they will have to get the fish from us, and they will pay the duty. I am glad to hear this announcement, rarely made, but which sometimes appears, about the consumer sometimes paying the duty. Of course, the hon. gentleman says, if the consumer is going to pay the duty on this occasion, we will be nearly as well off as if there was free admission. I am not going to enter into the subtleties of the question, but when I heard the hon. gentleman who moved the resolution, announcing that the consumer paid the duties, and the hon. gentleman who seconded the resolution, telling us the value of farm products was settled in England, I was gratified to hear statements which I have heard contradicted frequently in form and substance by hon. gentlemen opposite. The fact of the matter is, that instead of this condition of prosperity which the Speech congratulates us on, we are still laboring under very considerable depression. I recollect that in yesterday's issue, or that of the day before, of the chief organ of hon. gentlemen in Ontario, it was announced that the depression which had existed for three years continues unabated. I do not know whether that was the official foreshadowing of the Speech which we have just heard, but that was the statement made. I say the depression still lasts; there are in some respects, I am glad to say, signs of amendment, but it is not correct to say that the country is in a prosperous condition. We must apply ourselves to the consideration of the cause of that severe and continued depression and ascertain whether it is to be accounted for, as the hon. member for St. John says it is, altogether by circumstances beyond our power, or whether it be not the case that the enormously heavy and rising taxation, the restricted trade, the increase of our debt and of our expenses, and the course which has been pursued by many manufacturers under the hot-bed policy of the Government, are not the immediate and direct factors which have tended very largely to produce that heavy depression under which for three years we have been laboring, and from which there is so little prospect of the complete recovery we all desire, unless a change be made in the policy of the Government, unless the people be no longer oppressed with the burdens they have to bear, unless the expenses of the government of the country be reduced instead of being increased in the way in which they have been increased, unless some return be made to more economical principles of government. On this occasion hon. gentlemen have said a good deal in reference to one of the great railways which the country has constructed, but we hear little of the other one. I do not know whether it be a sign of prosperity in the east that the Intercolonial Railway, notwithstanding the enormous expenses on capital account which we have been asked to make for several years past, notwithstanding the additions made to capital account and the rolling stock to such a great degree; notwithstanding the numerous and valuable feeders which hon. gentlemen opposite have been acquiring and subsidizing for that road; notwithstanding the large trade which