

establish the equilibrium in our budget, to practice the most rigid economy consistent with the efficiency of the Public Service, to create a healthier revenue to meet our obligations, and to employ all the means afforded by a wise and judicious legislation and administration to restore, at the earliest moment, the comfort and prosperity of former days. A remodelling of the tariff has become necessary, and His Excellency announces that it will be done in a way to protect our youthful industries. To encourage us in this path we have the example of the advantageous results of the tariff of 1859; we have the example of almost all communities who believe that of all policies the best is that which before all things else protects the national interests; we have the example of Germany adopting the system which saved France after her recent disasters; and we shall soon, perhaps, have the example of England abandoning the application of an economical system by which she has profited, but which appears, even for her, to have had its time. Mr. Speaker, the country expects that this remodelling will be done in a protective sense. Our agricultural and industrial classes, understanding the solidarity of their interests, have pronounced their opinion on this point with an *ensemble* which has surprised everybody. In short, the solemn verdict of the 17th of September last demands, among other things, a policy truly national, broad and enlightened, which will promote and develop the resources of our great Confederation. However discouraging the present situation may be, Mr. Speaker, there is, nevertheless, no reason to despair. The clouds of adversity will pass away, and the dawn of better days cannot be far off. With the new impulse given to our industry, the construction of our railways, the creation of new markets for our commerce, we shall very soon resume the ascendant march of past years. Being one of the most important countries in the extent of our territory; possessing an imposing merchant marine, possessing the finest natural communications, possessing fisheries unrivalled in the world—whose importance my honourable colleague the member for Gaspé knows so well how to describe,—possessing a fertile soil, covered with magnificent forests,

and containing great and varied mineral wealth, we have nothing to envy in those countries most favoured by nature. Let me quote the words upon this subject of an American statesman, Mr. Seward: "I see in British America a region vast enough to contain an empire. Its immense wheat fields in the west, its enormous chains of mountains, its inexhaustible forests—the richest of the North—its precious fisheries, its mineral deposits, still unexplored, all this proves to me the possession of the elements of wealth. I find its inhabitants bold, energetic, and moulded by English liberty." We have also reached a high degree of civilization, and we have only to contemplate the number of our steeples, of our churches, of our educational institutions, and of our asylums for all classes of the unfortunate, to understand that we do not measure real progress by the number of our factories, and that we believe in the intervention of Providence in the affairs of men. We appreciate, in the highest degree, the advantages of education, and our system of instruction is not surpassed by that of any other country. We are descended, Mr. Speaker, from some of the strongest races in the world; we have preserved intact their finest traditions of glory and of virtue; if the same blood does not course in our veins, we are united by the same sentiments of noble emulation for our national advancement; we are growing and multiplying far removed from the wars and tumults which desolate and overturn so many other countries,—ready, however, to defend with our lives the soil of our ancestors; we live under the protection of the mildest and most just of political systems—sacred palladium of our liberties, of which we shall never permit with impunity the slightest violation; and it depends upon us alone to build up on this portion of the continent a vigorous and flourishing nation if we only know how to profit by the advantages which an allwise Providence has abundantly showered upon us. A great responsibility rests upon us, the representatives whom the country has chosen to direct its affairs, and this responsibility derives additional importance from the exceptional circumstances of the present hour. But, Mr. Speaker, notwithstand-