

usually does on occasions of this kind, with a mastery of his theme that it would be an impertinence on my part to eulogise. And we have my hon. friend from Montreal Centre (Mr McShane), who grew dithyrambic in his enthusiasm for the British flag—reminding me that he was one of a committee on the platform, some sixteen or seventeen years ago, when I spoke, in a theatre in Montreal, on the subject of “Ireland and the Empire.” Well, as I say, time passed away, and we opened up the North-West Territories. A political reference has been made—I think not with the taste which usually characterises my hon. friend from North Oxford (Mr. Sutherland). I think that, considering the character of the two speeches that opened the debate, and others, it would have been better if that political reference had not been made. Without making any political reference, I will only state the historical fact that the Conservative Party came into power and opened up the North-West and Manitoba. And since then what has happened? The waste lands of the United States, the lands opened there for settlement, are giving out. The American farmer is coming into the North-West under the immigration policy of my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior (Mr Daly).

Mr MCGREGOR: Politics.

Mr DAVIN I am not bringing in politics; I am only stating a historical fact. These men are coming into the North-West, and what has happened? We have had visits from General Sherman, we have had visits from leading statesmen belonging to the United States; we have had a visit from Mr Thompson, a literary man, who has contributed an article to one of the American magazines. And what does he say? He says that we have in the North-West Territories a grander heritage of fruitful and arable lands than the United States ever had. And what has been the result? Covetousness in regard to the North-West Territories has begun to fire the breast of the people of the United States, and the fact is that when they talk of Venezuela, and when they talk hostilely in regard to any other geographical spot on the map of the world, the spot they are thinking of is Manitoba and the North-West Territories. These places they covet; these lands they need. But, Mr. Speaker, Canada's position is such to-day that, with the potentialities of war and with the developed and inchoate material that we have on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, we in Manitoba, and the North-West Territories would not fear one whit. The writer in the St. Paul paper who stated that Manitoba and the North-West Territories could easily have been gobbled up, would have been greatly surprised if he could have witnessed what took place in Winnipeg on 30th December last, when the mere mention of Canada standing shoulder to shoulder with England, come what might, ready as our fathers had been, to fight and to win, and if we could not win, to die, created an enthusiasm so great that this gentleman would have been convinced that for the United States to capture Manitoba and the North-West Territories would have been a bigger job than they ever dreamed of. Sir, a gentleman spoke at that meeting—if a reference to his speech may be allowed—though it may procure a narrow sneer, but I can bear a narrow sneer—who could have used the very language with which he concluded a little speech that he made twenty-two years ago, and the first he made in Canada. These are the words he used, if I may be allowed to read them, and they sound almost prophetic.

They evidently regard us as if we were but a chip on the outer circle of a whirlpool into whose vortex we must inevitably be sucked. They have made laws with the idea of coercing us. They have now learned their error, and know they had to deal with

A spirit too delicate

To act their earthy and abhorred commands

I am certain it would not be good for Canada, whose spirit and the laws of whose development are evidently British. No! There is no danger of annexation. March may wed September, and time divorce regret, and the frost of January nip the flowers of June, but not a law of separation pass between us and the country of our great forefathers, in order that there should take place a marriage traitorous to our most valued and sacred traditions. Let the United States go on in their own course. We neither envy nor fear them. Let them flatter themselves with manifest destiny. But if they would hear the truth I can give them the result of nine months critical experience. I know the loyalty of the noble people of this country; and I can tell our Republican friends here to-night that that day shall never come when