

wise dealings with the Indians that we owe the blessings of peace and tranquility in our great North-West. It is a heritage handed over by the Hudson's Bay Company to the Canadian Government which we cannot be too thankful for. (Applause.) The great success of the company in dealing with the Indians was chiefly, I think, owing to the ability and judgment displayed by their chief factors and chief traders. One of the first things that struck me on my arrival in the North-West eighteen years ago was the intelligence and information possessed by these gentlemen, though they were living in a country so entirely isolated. They were foremost in fostering the educational efforts of those early days. I rejoice to be able to say that the son of one of these officers, after obtaining all the training that the North-West could then give, went to the University of Cambridge, where he graduated in honours some years ago, and after holding some important educational positions in England, is now about to return to the North-West as the head of a college already established on the banks of the Saskatchewan. (Applause.) I need not tell you how thoroughly I agree in the opinion expressed by Mr. Begg on the wonderful fertility of our great North-West. One great point must never be lost sight of. It is, that the acquisition of the fertile lands of Manitoba and the Saskatchewan Valley is destined to be of vast benefit to the Imperial interests of England. Just weigh for a moment the following significant fact:—During the last thirty years no fewer than five millions of people have left the shores of Great Britain. Of these, three millions three hundred thousand have gone to the United States of America. No doubt they have all, or nearly all, become citizens of the Republic. Now I have no jealousy whatever of the American Republic. (Applause.) A Britain, a member of this great English Empire, I feel that I need not be jealous of any country on the face of the globe—but I feel also that it is of vast importance to the interests of this British Empire that we should not lose the allegiance of the subjects of the Queen. (Applause.) Every emigrant who finds his way from England to the United States carries with him a certain commercial value, to the advantage of that country, and to the detriment of old England; and I cannot help expressing my profound astonishment when I think that this all-important fact is so little recognised, even among the educated and highly intelligent classes of England. (Applause.) Let me remind you that the man who goes to the United States will find it necessary, if he is to promote his own interests there, to become a citizen of that country. Now what does this citizenship involve? First, the man must swear that he will be faithful to the United States (we do not object to that); and secondly (and I ask every patriotic Englishman to weigh well the words), he solemnly swears by Almighty God that he renounces for ever his allegiance to the Queen of England. Is not that a serious matter for our consideration? (Great applause.) And will you not heartily concur with me when I say that the