

Canada, but he never found it among the real facts. On the contrary, the Liberals of the district of Quebec have always been in favour of free trade, and as far back as 1847 the Liberal Association, which at that time was presided over by a gentleman who left an honoured name among us, Hon. René Caron, afterwards Lieutenant Governor of Quebec, issued a manifesto in which I read this :

What the firmness and wisdom of the Liberal party have accomplished with regard to these matters, as well as the admission of the responsibility of the executive advisers, must be for all Liberals an indication of what they will be able to achieve through a more active organization and a more vigorous expression of public opinion in favour of these reforms now required by the present condition of affairs.

And the third article of the manifesto was this :

Free trade with all the world and the free navigation of the St. Lawrence.

This manifesto was issued by the Liberals of Quebec, who were of the school of Mr. Lafontaine. I am free to admit that in the district of Montreal the ideas of Mr. Papineau prevailed, and there was a marked tendency in favour of protection, and in so far as I am concerned, I admit that I have been brought up in the school of Mr. Papineau, but time and again for twenty years at least I have declared in Lower Canada that I was a disciple of Mr. Lafontaine. Why should I not hear the whole truth as to this. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) accuses me of having changed my views upon protection. He said a moment ago that I wrote protection in the newspaper 'Le Dérivateur.' I never wrote a word about protection in 'Le Dérivateur,' but I made a speech once, I remember, in 1871 in the Legislature of Quebec. That was the only speech which I ever made upon that question in which I brought up the views held by Mr. Papineau and which I had derived from him ; and I am surprised, I must say, that the loyal gentlemen who support the Government should reproach me for not now holding the views which I held then. Sir, it is a well-known fact in Lower Canada, and to those who know anything of the history of Canada : that Mr. Papineau, prior to the rebellion of 1837, laid down as his doctrine that we should buy nothing from England. And when I spoke in the Legislature of Quebec, coming flush with youth and victory, I stated that at that time there was as much reason to adhere to the policy of Mr. Papineau as in the year 1837. But, Mr. Speaker, what did I find ? When I went to the facts I found that Mr. Papineau had

not introduced that doctrine for any reason of political economy, but simply for political reasons to fight the British Government and to force them to give us that protection for our liberties which we required, or else to force the country into independence. Shall I read the resolution moved at the famous meeting held on the 7th of May, 1837 ; a resolution which was not moved by a Frenchman, but by an Englishman, Dr. Wilfred Nelson. It was as follows :—

That the measure of Lord John Russell, which takes away from the Assembly all control over the revenue, is a flagrant violation of all the rights granted to Lower Canada by the capitulation and the treaty.

That the Government which can adopt such violent measures and thus destroy right, by force and violence, is a contemptible Government unworthy of respect and even of allegiance.

That the people of Lower Canada will refrain as much as possible from the consumption of imported articles, and will make use of products manufactured in the country so as to deprive the Government of the revenue which it is its hope to obtain by collecting the duties imposed on foreign goods.

Now, Sir, that was a political object as I said, and not an object of political economy, and now that we have obtained all the liberties which we were striving for then, I leave it to gentlemen on the other side of the House to pursue the policy of buying nothing from England, a policy which to-day they are pursuing with a vengeance. Hitherto their policy has been, not to buy anything from England ; and their defence has been : that they applied this policy only to such goods as we produced in this country in order to force their production here. But to-day they have gone a step further, and when they tax tea, it is not for the purpose of promoting the growth of that article. This is the defence which I have to make on that point. Now, Sir, I have only this more to say : Speaking here in the maturity of my years and in the maturity of my convictions, formed, as I hope, by deep reflection and thought, I say this—and in saying it I am voicing the sentiments of all the Liberals in this country—that whatever may be our future relations with England—whether we remain as we are to-day, or whether the bond between us becomes closer or looser—it shall always be our aim and purpose to cultivate and maintain and promote, not only the most friendly sentiments, but also the most ample business relations with the great nation which, notwithstanding all that may be said by hon. gentlemen opposite to the contrary, is to-day by all odds the foremost commercial power that the world has ever seen.