

of the line, and disloyalty on the other. Taffy for Canadians and shekels for Americans. We certainly have had the benefit of some cheap advertising on the resources of our country; and let us hope that while

"Mingling truth with falsehood,
Sneers with smiles;
A thread of candor
With a web of wiles."

His advocacy of commercial union has done us no greater harm than to make us more united, more patriotic and self-reliant, with a determination to be Canadians and British subjects.

The special characteristic of this agitation points so clearly to an unjust discrimination against the mother country, as to stamp it with disloyalty—a disloyalty in which no true Canadian will take a part. While true to ourselves we need fear no attempt to barter the true interest of this country for the protection of an alien flag.

The advocacy of commercial union has been opposed by a sentiment so national in its character and expression, as to leave no doubt of our intention to maintain a distinct Canadian nationality on this continent. Let us guard sacredly the interests committed to our trust, and hand them down to our posterity without a stain to blot the escutcheon of British fame and national honor.

We have no quarrel with our neighbors across the line, with whom we wish to live on terms of amity and good will. For the representative type of true Americans we entertain the most kindly feelings and highest respect; and though political demagogues, during election times, may lead them to think more of votes than honor and true statesmanship—yet such utterances do not by any means represent the true nobility of the American people, any more than the advent of one swallow necessarily produces summer.

We graciously wish our neighbors God speed in working out their own political destiny on this continent, but as Canadians and lovers of our country, we will brook no interference in the management of our own affairs, or abate one iota of that which constitutes the elements of a people noble in spirit, self-respecting and patriotic.

We live in a land as fair and fertile as the hand of God has given to man. We are as free as the air we breathe, in all that makes men free. We have abundance, and an inheritance in the North-west practically inexhaustible. We have a territory 18,000 square miles larger than the United States, with Alaska thrown in. We are the fourth shipping power on the earth, possessing 100,000 tons more than our neighbors across the line, and standing next to the German Empire. We are as little taxed, our privileges considered, as any people on earth. We have peace and prosperity, and ought to be thankful when we consider that the United States pension list for 1888 amounted to \$78,000,000, which, capitalized at five per cent., represents a funded investment of \$1,560,000,000! This vast sum annually spent is the result of a lamentable and fratricidal war. Let us congratulate ourselves that the debt of Canada has been contracted only in the interest of peaceful pursuits. The acquisition of the North-west, the construction of public works, the opening up of the country, and the building of a national highway, belting the Dominion from sea to sea.

So much has been said by our adversaries respecting national

progress and taxation, that I shall make one more comparison and then conclude. The population of the United States in 1780 was 3,070,000, with a debt of \$75,000,000, irrespective of the various issues of continental currency, amounting to \$359,000,000, showing a total debt at that time of \$454,000,000 incurred in the war of independence. Canada's net debt to-day is about \$227,000,000, with a population of between five and six millions. Our population is increasing in a greater ratio than that of the United States during the first twenty-five years of their independence. The rapid growth of our cities and towns bears testimony to this fact, and last, but not least, the emigration from Dakota and Minnesota to Manitoba and the North-west, furnishes ample evidence of the fertility of Canadian farm lands.

In conclusion, let us inculcate a spirit of patriotism and devotion to our country and her interests. Let us own no allegiance, save the allegiance we owe to that land that has covered us with the sheen of her glory, and thrown about us the mantle of her protection in the infant days of a grand nationality. Let us cultivate more of a national feeling and love of country in our young men, and teach the value of it to our children as a national characteristic; and let us hope that the day is not far distant when men possessing a contrary sentiment will cease to be listened to with respect.

"If such there be, go mark him well,
For him no minstrel raptures swell.
High though his titles, proud his name,
Boundless his wealth as wish can claim.
Despite these titles, power and pelf,
The wretch concentrated all in self,
Living shall forfeit all renown,
And doubly dying, shall go down
To the vile dust from which he sprang,
Unwept, unhonored and unsung."

SECRETARY NICHOLLS' REPORT.

A FEW days since I had the pleasure of reading an advance copy of our President's able address, and as he has so exhaustively treated of several subjects which are of great moment to such an assemblage as I am now addressing, it is only necessary for me to refer to some matters which I think should, in the future, engage the attention of the Association. In the first place, however, I am pleased to be able to report that last year our membership increased more largely than in any year previous, and that our aggregate membership is more numerous than at any previous period in the history of the Association. The Treasurer will, no doubt, submit the exact figures, but without anticipating his statement, I may say that he is entitled to your hearty thanks for the manner in which he has always endeavored to conserve our interests. He has given us much of his valuable time without fee or reward, other than the consciousness of having done his utmost in our behalf, and it is my pleasant duty to bear witness to this fact.

THE FACTORY ACT.

In my last report I forbore dealing with the workings of the Ontario Factory Act, for the then expressed reason that its provisions had so recently become operative that criticism would have been premature. At the present, after over a year's experience, I think it will be generally admitted that its provisions are neither irksome nor unnecessary, and that the wisdom of this Association in not opposing a reasonable measure, has