

advanced to about \$500,000. The Asiatic and American shores, and to within sixty miles of the Pribyloff Islands are free to us, so that the energy and ability of the gentlemen who had this subject in charge have afforded our hardy fishermen an opportunity of not only materially advancing their own interests, but also helping on the resources of our entire Dominion. I feel that this question has been decided in a manner which the people of Canada may regard with a high degree of pride and satisfaction. As regards the tariff, we know that it is a very vexed question, and how it is to be determined this House will soon know. I have not shared the secrets of any member of the Government, but I think the people of Canada, living on the border of a highly protected and industrially developed country, such as the United States, must consider the whole question of the tariff fully, calmly, and dispassionately. It is not a question that can be settled in a day. We must have a revenue to meet our expenditure. If the principles of free trade were introduced, where should we be? We should be in the same position as they are now in England, and should be obliged to levy taxes upon our people. In that country they have an income tax; no man can shoot a bird, or even take a feather from its tail, without being subject to a tax; no man can catch a fish in any small stream without being taxed. But to-day, in Canada, we are free in these particulars. And why are we free? Because thirteen years ago the principles of protection, moderate protection to meet the requirements of our people, and to carry on the affairs of our country, protection so arranged as not to press unduly upon a community, not to thwart the efforts of manufacturers, but to broadly subserve the best interests of this country, and advance its material prosperity, were recognized. And I feel sure that when the tariff is brought down, the men of common sense in the Dominion of Canada will acquiesce in the sentiments which emanate from those who have authority, and that the tariff for this country will be of such a discriminating character, will have so much power in its principles, will so tend to advance the material interests of our people, as to give entire satisfaction to all classes. In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, let me say that the Dominion of Canada is a noble heritage which has descended to us from the achievements of the various nationalities which make up our people. We have a prosperous country, we have an energetic, pushing, and self-reliant population, and, judging from the traditions which our ancestors have left us, I think our own people are fully able to work out their own destiny. Density of population or extent of country are not everything. If we look back over the pages of history, what do we find? India,

with a population of two hundred millions, controlled by a few Anglo-Saxons, China with as many millions of people as there are days in the year—what influence do they exert on the progress of civilization, on the advancement of society, or in the councils of the nations? Brazil and Mexico, with even a greater population than Canada—where are they to-day so far as regards their influence in the world? When we consider little Canada, as we are called, with our five millions of people, what do we find? We find that a few days ago our plenipotentiaries distinguished themselves at the seat of learning in Paris, where they met those other great counsellors, and they came back here having established for themselves a name and a reputation which lead us to believe, and which lead the people of the world generally to acknowledge, that in Canada we have a class of men who are well able to guard our interests and to protect us in the widest and most comprehensive sense of the term. It is a grand thing to live in the spring time of a nation; it is a great thing to be at the fountain head of the great stream of national existence, flowing on with every season and gaining momentum with the lapse of time. Little events sometimes disturb nations; we know perfectly well that expression of opinions sometimes interfere with the prosperity of a country; and for that reason, no matter what side of the House we occupy, be we Reformer or be we Conservative, we owe it to our country to protect its interests and its people; we owe it to our country to utter nothing that will be detrimental to its interests, we owe it to our country to guard it in every particular, both at home and abroad. With these ideas before us we may rely upon it that the young oak of Canadian nationality, planted but as yesterday, will spread out until it extends from one end of the Dominion to the other. Let us hope that the dew-drop on the very leaf of the acorn will never generate the sap of religious antagonism, bigotry or sectionalism, will never develop racial differences, will never develop anything but what will tend to advance the best interests of Canada; and in that way, and in no other way, we will become bound together as one people. When I look around this Chamber to-day and observe the seats that were once occupied by great men whose voices are now hushed, it seems to me that a phonetic power emanates from these walls to-day that binds us together as one. When I think of a Macdonald, a Cartier, a Mackenzie, and a Dorion, the quadruple powers of intellect, activity, intelligence, and perseverance; when I think what these men did for this country in years past, how they formed by their energy and ability the very warp and woof of that structure upon which to-day rests the civil and religious liberties of this country, I feel constrained to ask, have we not reason to feel proud of what has been accomplished? Let us look for-