

man, will look upon the conduct of the present Canadian Government in regard to this matter as dictated by anything but sound and necessary policy. As to the libel that their object was disloyal, the practical action of the Canadian Ministry, and especially of the Premier, who is the Minister of Public Works, in pushing forward communications by telegraph and by railway, and in opening the speediest route by water to the Rocky Mountains, proves that their desire is only to hasten that increase of population which will enable Canada to hold her own in agriculture, commerce, and manufactures with the rival Republic.

The Reciprocity Treaty I do not propose to discuss to-night, since it appears by a telegram that it is practically dead; but it is a very curious comment on charges of disloyalty and annexation that the proposals of the Government should have been viewed by the Protectionists of the United States with so much disfavour as to render it impossible to carry the Treaty!

Mr. Mackenzie, the Premier of Canada, has very frankly and clearly expressed his views of the future of Canada. In a speech to the Dominion Board of Trade at Ottawa, in February, 1874, he said:—

"I need not inform Mr. McLaren and the other American delegates present, for they must, I am sure, be all conscious of it, that it is an established fact that there are to be two nationalities on this Continent. . . .

. . . It will be our policy, our ambition, to open up the country and settle our vast territories, which, we hope, will attract a large share of the immigration that is at present flowing into the United States from the old settled countries of Europe. . . .

. . . Our friends from the Western States who are present may depend upon it that no effort will be wanting on our part which energy and money can secure, to have the highway of the St. Lawrence made all that our commercial men can desire, at a comparatively early day. And when that highway is completed, instead of their being any talk about our joining the nationality to the South, perhaps a slice of that nationality may wish to join us."

We have this evening been taking, as it were, a Pisgah view of this great land of promise. Spies have been sent out and have from time to time returned with stories of giant difficulties in the way of settlement, but the best evidences are the facts of progress which have to-night been laid before you. This review must have convinced you of the importance to us of this vast colony as a field for the population which our economy has as yet devised no scheme to enable us adequately and comfortably to support—as a field for the employment of our superabundant capital, which surveys the world from China to Peru in search of opportunities of gain—as a field for the best and noblest expansion of the British race, and wealth, and power. It is no extreme thing to say that the time may come when the Canadian people will take their share in bearing the burdens of Empire. When one looks over the continent of Europe and sees the uneasiness which is prevailing amongst the nations—the huge armaments and military levies which threaten to convert half the population into unproductive bandits, looking for opportunities of violence—we cannot but feel, amidst our anxieties for the future of England, that a time may come when we shall congratulate ourselves that, in facing vast international disturbances on this side of the water, we have at our back the assured loyalty and the infinite resources of our Great Canadian Empire.

Mr. Thomas Whithworth moved, and Mr. John Slagg, jun., seconded, a vote of thanks to Mr. Jenkins for his able lecture, which was carried amidst great applause.

Dr. John Watts, referring to the fact that during the cotton famine emigrants had been sent out to Canada who had afterwards crossed the border to the United States; asked, assuming the glorious description which Mr. Jenkins had given of the advantages of the Dominion of Canada: how it was that these emigrants had found an inducement to go over to the United States? Remarking upon another point in the lecture, he said he had no reason to doubt the soundness of Canadian finance, and he did not believe that they did very often apply to speculators in London to do business for them, but he did remember having received from time to time prospectuses from a quarter which induced him to put them at once into the waste paper basket or the back of the fire relating to certain Canadian City Bonds.

Mr. James Angus said that it was natural that the persons to whom Dr. Watts had referred should go across from Canada to the United States, because they were cotton operatives. [Dr. Watts: Not all.] Well, most of them, and they went over to a country where cotton operatives were wanted. After expressing the gratification with which he had listened to the lecture, he referred to the tariff question. He did not believe there was a single Liberal in England who would ever ask Canada to charge her tariff one half per cent. for the benefit of England. But we had had some experience in legislation in this direction in England—more than the combined world together—and we had done more by our commercial legislation in improving the condition of our people in the last thirty years than ever was done in the world before by legislation. With all this experience—the benefit of which Canadians need not be ashamed to accept from England—it was very strange that men who know perfectly well the advantage of free trade, when they ran over to Canada like Mr. Goldwin Smith, advised the Canadians to adopt a protective tariff, because, as Mr. Goldwin Smith said, the province of Quebec was over-peopled, and it was necessary to encourage manufacturers in order to find some work for the surplus population. It was hardly conceivable, but it was the fact, that such men went over to Canada and talked this nonsense. To enrich a country by means of a protective tariff required more knowledge on the part of a Government than the best informed Government could be possessed of. The most ludicrous attempt at this which he knew was one little item in the Canadian tariff. Sewing cotton wound on wooden bobbins pays an *ad valorem* duty on entering Canada; but if the same thread is imported all ready to wind on bobbins, it is counted raw material, and pays no duty; so a clever Paisley manufacturer sends out a few throstles, employs a few boys, part of the Goldwin Smith's surplus population, pays £2,000 to £3,000 a year in wages, and escapes taxation to twenty times the wages paid. Whom did the Canadian Government enrich by this manipulation of the tariff? Not the consumers, who paid the same price for thread wound in the country as for that imported ready wound; not the Exchequer, which lost the duty; but spinners in Bolton, who supplied the yarn to Paisley, and the Paisley doublers, who were sharp enough to clear the tariff in the way described. This he thought the most ludicrous case he knew; but in the very idea of protective tariff absurdity like this, on a larger or smaller

scale, must be contained, otherwise the tariff is not protective. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Benjamin Armitage put a question with respect to the manufacturing prosperity of Canada, upon which Mr. Jenkins had not touched in his address. He cordially joined with Mr. Jenkins in desire that Canada should prosper in all its affairs—manufacturing as well as agricultural—but it was now prospering to a certain extent at our loss. During his own commercial life he had known a considerable trade with Canada, which had gradually become smaller, until now it was nearly nil. This was because Canada, under protection, had made considerable progress in manufacturing.

Mr. Jenkins in replying to the vote of thanks at considerable length, said that the subject of migration to the United States, to which Dr. Watts had alluded, had long been a sore one in Canada. Many of the emigrants were people of migratory and unsettled habits. Another explanation of the phenomenon had been given by Mr. Angus, and in addition it should be remembered that the labour markets of the United States—the population being so great—had a powerful attractive influence upon early settlers. The whole drift of his lecture had been to show that though there was not in Canada an immediate market for every class of labour, yet he could say that the advantages were preeminent for labourers who were ready for immediate employment or settlement upon land. With regard to the financial matter to which Dr. Watts had referred, it involved points of such delicacy that he did not think it would be right to go into them, but if Dr. Watts had invested in one or two of the loans which had been offered to him he would have received a reasonable return, and would certainly have got his money. As regarded the remarks made by Mr. Angus upon the tariff question, his own personal feeling ran pretty much in the same direction, but he had been adding the arguments of Canadian statesmen upon the subject. He thought it was somewhat significant that men like Mr. Goldwin Smith, well known free traders, after residence in Canada, should appear to see no present alternative but a tariff. He might say, however, that Quebec was not overcrowded, but doubtless there were difficulties there, arising from ecclesiastical, race, and other relations, which rendered the government of that region one of the most perplexing problems which Canadian statesmen had to solve.

The Italian government is about to try an experiment hitherto new in European armies, if the semi-civic force of Switzerland is excepted, and one that may possibly bring about a large change in tactics. The Vetterli "repeating" rifle, which is about to be supplied to certain Italian regiments, carries eleven reserve charges in a cylinder placed like a sort of false barrel under the real one. It may be used as an ordinary piece, without any reference to this stock of extra ammunition, which is then locked off; but, by moving a single bolt-piece, this trigger will discharge the whole twelve charges in rapid succession. The Swiss officers are said to be well satisfied with the practice made by the repeater; but their general view is that it is an arm especially suited for troops standing on the defensive. One battalion only of Bersaglieri at Turin is to receive it, and give it a fair trial. If it be approved of for such special troops, it is proposed later to supply all these rifle regiments, as well as the new Alpine companies of Chasseurs with it.