

expended over and above the sum estimated to accomplish the purpose aimed at.

Reference has been made to the fact that the returns of the census were somewhat disappointing. I am in receipt of a communication from the union of Alberta municipalities directing attention to the fact that these returns are incomplete and incorrect, that the statistical information in many instances is inaccurate and asking that a new census be taken, at least in the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. I do not know, Mr. Speaker, whether that be possible, but this I do know that the city which I have the honour to represent has a population of at least 6,000 or 7,000 more than that shown by the census returns. But I am not altogether prepared to believe that is the cause of the inaccurate census returns. Indeed so extraordinary has been the growth of that great city and so rapid has been the increase of its population that during the last three or four months 6,000 or 7,000 may well have been added to the population as shown by the census.

But I think that we may congratulate ourselves as Canadians upon the fact that the census returns show a substantial increase in population. While the immigration returns show that vast numbers of people have come into Canada, people must have been leaving Canada as well in large numbers. But we have only to remember that fifty years ago the population of the United States was only half what it is at the present time to realize what the great possibilities of this Canada of ours may be. So, while, as I say, the census returns may be somewhat disappointing, still, I think we have every cause for rejoicing that they show such a substantial increase in population within the last ten years. And it is to be borne in mind that we have passed the difficult point. In the next ten years, we can ardently hope and confidently expect, the returns will not be disappointing. And we can very well be encouraged, because it was during the corresponding ten years in the history of the republic to the south that the greatest improvement was made in the census returns there.

Now, intimately associated in the minds of those who live west of the Great Lakes—and, I doubt not, also of those who live in the east—with the problems of transportation and prices and markets are the problems incident to and connected with the tariff. And it is a matter of great satisfaction, and, it seems to me, of congratulation, that we at last have an administration with the courage of its convictions, the courage to lift the tariff, if you will, out of politics by creating a tariff commission that will gather the

information to enable us to deal with this most important matter on a scientific basis. I do not think there has been a time in the history of the Canadian people when it was more apparent that we should have a band of trained experts capable of gathering at first hand full and accurate information for the benefit of the Canadian farmer, manufacturer and workman than in the election that has just passed. How complete was the information of the people of the United States as compared with ours. That indicated the necessity of employing such a band of trained experts; and another advantage is that we may find employment for the great number of young men who are coming from our universities highly trained in the theory of political economy who would thus find employment and be able to apply their knowledge practically for the benefit of the people. We shall be able to have a band of trained experts whose labours will enable parliament to frame a tariff that will not be framed in the interests of a few gentlemen, to enable them to create great fortunes, nor yet for the purpose of vindictively attacking a political foe, but a tariff that will commend itself to the judgment alike of the agriculturist and manufacturer. I feel sure that I speak for the people whom I have the honour to represent, and for the people of the west generally, when I say that they are not the kind of men who do not believe in a tariff. The men of the west equally with those of the east, believe in a tariff. In these days of peace treaties, in these days when we are talking of the arbitration of differences that arise amongst the nations of the world, when we say that fleets and armies no longer have work to do, what is the great weapon with which nations must fight the battles of commerce?—and these battles are just as fierce, and, even though there be no bloodshed, just as deadly in some respects, as the battles of the past. The only weapon we have is the weapon we call the tariff. There is no sense in talking about the theories of free trade, the splendid doctrines of the past. It was a great constitutional writer in England who said, 'There is no human pain that is equal to the pain of a new idea.' And it seems to me that in these days the new idea that has seized the people everywhere is, that we must protect our country. People no longer talk of free trade, but of fair trade. We must protect our artisans, our manufacturers, and our farmers by affording them markets at home for the products of land and sea.

This is the duty, it seems to me devolving upon us, and I think it is a matter of congratulation for the House and the country that the government has the courage to create a tariff commission, one