

There is another member of the Government to whom I should make reference, and that is my talented young friend, the Minister of the Interior, Mr. Sifton. (Applause). The future of Canada is largely bound up in the development of Manitoba and the Northwest. Fill up these great tracts of land with useful settlement, and you have the best of customers for our merchants and manufacturers.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE WEST.

Canada spent a vast sum of money in opening up the Northwest; it was wisely spent in the main. We had spent much money in the construction of a great railway, which largely realized the expectations of its friends and disappointed some of the anticipations of its critics. Even then, after you had opened up the railway and spent large sums in opening up the lands, what was the condition? Only a few years ago, in 1896, when this Government came into power, there was almost stagnation in the Northwest. True, some progress had been made, but not very great. What did we find in 1896? You will find that the immigrants that were brought into the country were comparatively few, and, if you take the returns now, you will find that the number of immigrants coming in has been enormously increased; you will find that the sales of land by the railway companies having land grants and by the Hudson's Bay Company, have gone up into tremendous figures; that where formerly they counted up a few thousand dollars, the results are now counted in millions. There is a boom in the Northwest—no, not a boom, a safe, steady, gradual development. (Hear, hear.) When Mr. Sifton came into office he had faith in that country, and his colleagues had faith in him. He came to us and he said: "I want large sums of money; I want to send my agents throughout the world; I want to use printer's ink," and the Government said he must have the money, gave him their blessing, and sent him away. He was criticized. Opponents said: "Look at the jobs he is creating; look at the number of agents he is sending out." To-day we are reaping a rich harvest. If we are developing and filling up that country in a way that makes every Canadian proud, let us honor that strong young man from the Northwest, whose policy has been largely instrumental in bringing it about. (Applause.)

SOUND TARIFF POLICY.

Then I venture to claim that this Government has given you eight years of a reasonable and sound tariff policy. I do not mean that everybody is pleased. I do not mean that extremists are pleased; I think if the extremists were pleased you would not have a satisfactory policy. There is a happy medium in these things, and we have endeavored to strike the happy medium.