

Jubilee celebration, I am sure I may be permitted to say that the people of Canada, one and all, feel that a compliment has been paid them in the invitation extended to us by the Imperial government to send a representative from Canada to take part in that celebration, and I may be permitted also to say that in the present premier of Canada I feel, as one, that we have a gentleman well fitted to represent not merely a party in Canada, but the whole Canadian people. I do not know that it is at all necessary for me to venture to make any extended remarks with regard to that question known as the settlement of the school difficulty of Manitoba. I do not intend to deal with that question at all from its legal aspect, as I believe it would be presumption on my part to make any such attempt; but I may say here, that I honestly believe that the people of this country, from one end of Canada to the other, with few exceptions, indeed, are satisfied with the way in which that difficulty has been disposed of. I daresay that there are some who are not satisfied. There was but one way, in my opinion, to settle the question. It was referred to the courts in the first place, then it had to be referred back to the people of Canada. If I understand right, there are in this country but two powers competent to deal with the question. It might have been settled by the legislature of the province of Manitoba; it might have been settled by this Federal Parliament here at Ottawa, but it was settled by the help of both the government of Manitoba and the government of Canada. I believe it is safe for me to say that recent events have shown that the people of Canada, in all the provinces where they have had an opportunity of speaking out on this question at the polls, have pronounced in favour of that settlement. I come now to another matter which has been alluded to in the Speech of His Excellency, and that is the revision, or the reform, of the tariff. I stand here to-night as an advocate of reduced taxation in this country. I stand here to-night as one who has all along favoured a reduction of the tariff; I stand here to-night as one who has all along from the outset been opposed to the National Policy. I believe to-night that a mistake was made when that policy was introduced into this Dominion. I am satisfied, speaking from a provincial standpoint—more particularly speaking from

the standpoint of the province from which I come—that it has been productive of no good, that is, to the maritime provinces. I admit there are sections of Canada which have benefited by that policy, but if we are to be guided and governed by the statistics placed in our hands, it must be clear to every one of us that the progress made in Canada during the time in which that policy has been in operation has not been such as we had a right to expect. Will any hon. gentleman say that I, as a New Brunswicker, should be satisfied when in ten years the province from which I come has only gained sixty-one souls—when previous to that decade our population was increasing by leaps and bounds. We were keeping pace with the other provinces of Canada, but during ten years of the eighteen since the adoption of the National Policy our population has been stationary. What I say with regard to New Brunswick, will apply equally well to the other maritime provinces, but, as remarked by the hon. gentleman who preceded me in discussing this question, we have to take things as we find them, Circumstances have changed and are changing. I am to-day as firm a believer in a low tariff as I ever was, but when I look around me and see the condition of things existing to-day in the adjoining republic, among the people to the south of us—when I find that that people are determined to crush us as Canadians and avow that they are going to adopt a tariff which will compel us to forego our allegiance to the mother land, or in other words, which would starve us into annexation with that country, then, if I had advice to offer to the government of Canada, I would ask them in the revision of the tariff to go slowly. I would ask them to consider well the steps they were taking and I would go further and say that until the better judgment of the people of the United States reasserts itself, I would ask them to grant favours only where favours would be granted in return. They have adopted or rather are about to adopt a policy not only of protection, but a policy of exclusion as well. They have their alien labour laws, and they propose amendments to the immigration law, and they propose a tariff more prohibitory than the McKinley tariff. I do not know what the effect of it is to be. I am quite sure if it is to bear hard upon any part of this Dominion it will be upon the