

(Hear.) According to the census of 1861, the value of the agricultural productions of the previous year in the united provinces of British America was \$120,000,000; and if we add to that the garden products, and the improvements made on new lands by the agricultural laborers of the provinces, it will be found that the actual product of the industry of our farmers in that year was \$150,000,000. (Hear, hear.) The assessed value of our farms—which is always greatly less than the real value—was \$550,000,000 in the year 1861. (Hear.) Then, sir, in regard to the minerals of the united provinces—what vast fields of profitable industry will we have in the great coal beds of Nova Scotia—in the iron deposits found all over the provinces—in the exhaustless copper regions of Lakes Huron and Superior and the Eastern Townships of Lower Canada—and in the gold mines of the Chaudière and Nova Scotia. And if the mind stretches from the western bounds of civilization through those great north-western regions, which we hope ere long will be ours, to the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains, what vast sources of wealth to the fur trader, the miner, the gold hunter and the agriculturist, lie there ready to be developed. (Hear, hear.) Nor can another source of wealth be altogether forgotten. The President of the United States is said recently to have declared that the produce of the petroleum wells of the United States will in half a dozen years pay off the whole national debt of the republic. Well, sir, we too have “struck oil,” and every day brings us intelligence of fresh discoveries—(hear, hear, and laughter)—and if the enormous debt of our neighbors may possibly be met by the oily stream, may we not hope that some material addition to our annual industrial revenue may flow from our petroleum regions? (Hear, hear.) Another vast branch of British American industry is the timber and lumber trade. In the year 1862, our saw-mills turned out not less than 772,000,000 feet of manufactured lumber, and our whole timber exports summed up to the value of fifteen millions of dollars. (Hear, hear.) The manufacturing interests of the provinces, too, are fast rising into importance; agricultural implement works, woollen factories and cotton mills, tanneries and shoe factories, iron works and rolling mills, flax works and paper mills, and many other extensive and profitable mechanical establishments are springing up among us, and rapidly extending their operations. (Hear, hear.) And to add to all, we have

already 2,500 miles of railway, 4,000 miles of electric telegraph, and the noblest canal system in the world, but which, I hope, will soon be infinitely improved. (Cheers.) These, Mr. SPEAKER, are some examples of the industrial spectacle British America will present after the union has been accomplished; and I ask any member of this House to say whether we will not, when thus united, occupy a position in the eyes of the world, and command a degree of respect and influence that we never can enjoy as separate provinces? (Hear, hear.) Must it not affect the decision of many an intending emigrant, when he is told not of the fishing and mining pursuits of Nova Scotia, or of the ship-building of New Brunswick, or of the timber trade of Lower Canada, or of the agriculture of Upper Canada, but when he is shown all these in one view, as the collective industrial pursuits of British America? (Hear, hear.) I am persuaded that this union will inspire new confidence in our stability, and exercise the most beneficial influence on all our affairs. I believe it will raise the value of our public securities, that it will draw capital to our shores, and secure the prosecution of all legitimate enterprises; and what I saw, while in England, a few weeks ago, would alone have convinced me of this. Wherever you went you encountered the most marked evidence of the gratification with which the Confederation scheme was received by all classes of the people, and the deep interest taken in its success. Let me state one fact in illustration. For some time previous to November last our securities had gone very low down in the market, in consequence, as my honorable friend the Finance Minister explained the other night, of the war raging on our borders, the uncertainty which hung over the future of this province, and the fear that we might be involved in trouble with our neighbors. Our five per cent. debentures went down in the market so low as 71, but they recovered from 71 to 75, I think, upon the day the resolutions for Confederation, which we are now discussing, reached London. Well, sir, the resolutions were published in the London papers, with eulogistic editorial articles, and the immediate effect of the scheme upon the public mind was such that our five per cents. rose from 75 to 92. (Hear, hear.)

HON. MR. HOLT—What has put them down since?

HON. MR. BROWN—I will presently tell the honorable gentleman what has put them down since. But I say that, if anything could show more clearly than another the