

anything of a definite nature about the volume of our internal commerce. He told us it was great, I believe it is great. Internal commerce is naturally very much greater than external commerce. We have a large railway mileage, we have an extensive business done on those railways, we have extensive transactions between the various Provinces of this Dominion and also between various portions of the same Province, and I have no doubt that the internal commerce of Canada is a very large one, and I have no doubt further that, if the area over which our commercial transactions exist was extended, those transactions would be increased over that area, and I think it is easily demonstrated that the internal commerce of the United States is in proportion very much greater than our own. In the report of Mr. Switzer, the chief of the Bureau of Statistics in the United States, the last report made, we find a rather astounding calculation. I confess it startled me. It may be exaggerated or not, but it is made in an official document of the United States, and that statement is that the internal commerce of the United States in 1887 amounted to \$32,874,000,000. That is 360 times greater than the commerce of Canada with the United States, it is 170 times greater than the commerce of Canada with all the world. It is true that this is an enormous figure. It is two and a half times larger than the export and import trade of the world in 1880. It is twenty-five times more than the import and export trade of the United States in 1886. Whether it is closely correct or not, it shows how vast is the volume of commerce which courses through the business veins of that great country, and enlivens and vivifies the great industries within its borders. If one will stop to consider how grand a theatre for unfettered commercial intercourse is furnished by the northern part of the American continent, he can never for a moment imagine that the policy of our hon. friend opposite is a policy conceived in the interest of the country. Take this vast country, stretching from the Gulf of Mexico to the Arctic Ocean, with its great sweep of sea coast—the Mexican Gulf sea coast, the Atlantic sea coast, all along the States and along Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, along the coast of Labrador and up to the Arctic Ocean, and then the line of coast from Behring's Straits to the State of California—take that great country with its intercommunication by means of its rivers and inland seas—the Mississippi system with its 16,000 miles of navigation, the rivers flowing into the Atlantic, the St. Lawrence, the Mackenzie, the Yukon, the inland seas and all those great arteries of communication stretching throughout that country in every direction, and furnishing the means of intercommunication; take all the range and varieties of climate which exist from the sub-tropic climate to the Arctic; take its variety of products and consider that every known production on the face of the globe can be obtained within its boundaries; take its mines, its forests and its fisheries, its railway development, and estimate what will be the future of this great country and its future population when it has a population to day of sixty-seven millions. It is destined to be the seat of the greatest empire the world has seen, the home of civilisation. The best hope of humanity are centered upon this great land; and the future development of the wealth and population of this country will be beyond our knowledge and beyond our imagination. We are now outside of this union, and we have been invited to participate in the advantages which may result from the intercourse which should take place between us; and I say that every consideration of self-interest should induce us, if nothing else would, to break down the trade barriers which exist between us. Let those barriers be broken down, and the ever-expanding and cumulative forces of trade intercourse cannot stop at the boundary but will go on increasing for the advantage of both parties to the agreement. We have nothing to keep

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us apart in connection with race distinctions. The French in Louisiana and the Anglo-Saxons in the other States get along easily enough and without difficulty; so also we trust will the French of Quebec and the Anglo-Saxons of North America. We have substantially the same institutions as they have. We have a common language. We have similar laws. We have religious affinities with our neighbors. There is nothing to prevent these two countries from living together in peace and amity, as far as their commercial relations are concerned. What are the forces which fight against the continuance of the barriers which impede trade? What are the forces which forbid that these two countries shall remain in a state of commercial hostility with one another? They are geography, nature, racial affinity, business interest, common sense, and the intermingling of the two peoples. We have now at least a million native Canadians in the United States, we have from a million and a quarter to a million and a half of the descendants of Canadians in that country. Do they exercise any influence on the opinion of that great people? We have perhaps half a million of foreign immigrants who have gone there after coming to this country, and that is a mighty force which is drawing these two countries more and more together, and is impressing on the mind of both countries the desirability of free commercial intercourse and the absurdity of maintaining the condition of things which now exist. I assume, then, that free intercourse is desirable, and perhaps I will enter a little more fully later into some particular reasons why it is desirable.

I assert now that the Government of this country show practically no sense of the importance of this question. I assert that they are trifling with the people of this country, that they are making an assertion that they have sought diligently to obtain free commercial relations with them, when they know, and every man of sense knows, that these overtures were made in a direction that they knew were fore-ordained to failure. They have professed to make overtures for free trade relations upon lines which they have been told again and again would never be accepted, they have studiously refrained from making overtures upon any line which was likely to be successful, and they have shown clearly and unmistakably that they do not want to have free trade relations and would not take them on any obtainable terms; but they seek to allay the feeling in the country in favor of this exchange of trade by professing that they are seeking for and are desirous of free trade relations, and that they will obtain them as soon as the United States will grant them on reasonable and equitable terms. Well, Sir, they will never get them.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. CHARLTON. They will never get them, because they will not sacrifice the interests of a small minority of the population of this country that are bleeding the majority, they will not sacrifice their interests for the interests of the millions of this country. They have been placed in power by a little clique of manufacturers, by a small favored ring, for whom the Government legislate, and whose interests are paramount, in the estimation of this Government, to the interests of the farmer, the lumberman, the ship owner, the fisherman, and the laborer; and for that reason they will never get it because they will never seek for it on terms upon which they can obtain it. They have been invited to come and get it. I have in my hand an invitation from the mouthpiece of the American nation, from their Minister of Foreign Affairs, to an hon. gentleman who no longer has a seat in this House. A plainer and more urgent invitation to open negotiations with a view to obtaining freer trade relations, never was proffered by one country to another, a letter of Mr. Bayard, Secretary of State of the United