

dian cheese in any way distinguishable from American cheese. We must come down to their level; there will be North American cheese hereafter and a North American price; such a thing as Canadian cheese will be practically unknown. The same is true about bacon. We have made special arrangements to cater to the British market and we are sending \$6,000,000 or \$7,000,000 worth of bacon annually, and the hogs are specially grown in Canada and cured in a special manner for the British market. Hereafter there will be no opportunity of distinguishing our bacon products; Canadian bacon on the British market in future will be simply a product of North America. We have been endeavouring for a long time to secure the removal of the embargo on Canadian cattle. We have told them that our cattle were sound and well and that our quarantine arrangements prevented diseased cattle coming in from the United States. Is there any chance of our getting that embargo removed now? Certainly we cannot; we must let all the cattle from Hudson bay to Texas into the port of Montreal hereafter.

And, when we are counting the cost, we must also remember that a preference as far as Great Britain is concerned now becomes impossible. We have lost completely the identity of what we export. The government may increase the preference on British goods if they see fit; the government after cajoling the manufactures and bringing them on year after year to imagine they were in fancied security, may, as a counter demonstration of loyalty decide to make that exhibition at the expense of the Canadian manufacturers. They can reduce the duties on the goods coming from England into Canada just as far as they like, but they can never hope to get any preference in the British market hereafter. Our products will be undistinguishable in the future from the products of the United States, and that renders a preference for us absolutely impossible. And so I think Mr. Bourassa was not very far wrong, when, in his newspaper not long ago, resuming at the end of a series of articles his appreciation of the result that this convention would have upon Canada, he wrote:

Constitue-t-elle un obstacle infranchissable à l'union douanière de l'empire? Oui—et c'est le motif qui, à nos yeux, milite le plus en sa faveur.

Does this constitute an insurmountable obstacle to a tariff union within the empire? Yes it does. And that is the very reason which in my eyes militates in its favour.

Is that the reason which militates in its favour with the Prime Minister?

Mr. LEMIEUX. What paper is the hon. gentleman quoting from?

Mr. AMES. From 'Le Devoir.'

Mr. AMES.

Mr. LEMIEUX. Signed by Mr. Bourassa?

Mr. AMES. Signed by Mr. Bourassa. Let me read from the New York 'American' under the heading 'America Cuts Loose from the British Empire,' the following:

In ratifying the trade agreement, we should understand, therefore, that we are settling a world problem and settling it right. British imperialism will wane in consequence. But American trade routes will run along the lines that were ordained by nature. And the prosperity of the western continent will receive an immense impetus through a definite final disentanglement from the intrigues of European politics.

That is how it is viewed by the Americans. Let me read this extract from the New York 'Herald' of February 1, 1911:

The discussion of the last few days shows that the key to the imperial reciprocity situation, so far as Canada may be a party to it, is held by the United States.

Yes, that will be the result; the key of the imperial reciprocity situation so far as Canada is concerned will hereafter be held by the United States, and can be used only with the consent of the United States. When the right hon. the Prime Minister and his associates go over to the Imperial Conference in May next, they will go and confess to their friends from other parts of the British Empire that as far as they are concerned they can do nothing in respect of fiscal matters without consulting Washington. We formerly enjoyed the proud position of being the mistress in our own house and daughter in our mother's house. Hereafter we are no longer the mistress in our own house and we become the step-daughter in our mother's house, and can not even sign our own name without the consent of the dominant party.

Although the contrary has been frequently asserted, I would like again to bring to the attention of the Finance Minister the fact that this proposition does affect the British preference—at least, in one very important item; that is, the item of rolled plates. I cannot see how he ever allowed that to slip into the agreement. Formerly the duty on rolled plates coming from the United States to Canada was 5 per cent, although we permitted them to come from Great Britain free. They are now made free to both countries, and the result is that the whole of our trade, amounting to \$4,500,000 annually, will go to the American steel trust.

Mr. FIELDING. That article is now on our free list? What we did was to secure its free admission to the United States.

Mr. AMES. You will not send one ton to the United States, but you will transfer 50,000 tons that now come to Canada from Great Britain in British bottoms to the American steel trust.