

United States should be on friendly terms. More than one public speaker of late has said that Canada should be the interpreter of good relations between the Mother Country and the great American Republic. It is a sensible thought; and what better can we do than begin by trying to establish better commercial relations? If we are going to have barbed wire entanglements of the tariff separating these two peoples, depend upon it that friendly relations cannot continue; such conditions are bound to be productive of friction. In the interests of Canada, then; in the interests of the United States; in the interests of the Empire; in the interests of the world, which are identified with the interests of the British Empire and of the United States, we should make any move that is possible to cultivate friendly relations with our neighbours to the south.

I do not desire, Sir, to detain the House at any considerable length in the matter; I think the questions I have already discussed cover the ground pretty well. We should be doing a good thing in making another approach toward our American friends. I have said that the historical policy of the Republican party has been one of high tariff while that of the Democratic party has been toward low tariff—lower, at all events, than that which the Republican party usually has followed. One of the happy circumstances in connection with the reciprocity agreement was that a compromise was effected; the Republican administration, usually favourable to a high tariff, made the agreement for reciprocity, and the Democratic party found it so much in harmony with the principles advocated by their historic party, that they, in the main, supported it. On that issue, therefore, we had a compromise between the Republicans and the Democrats. While the Republican party is to-day largely a high tariff party, and while all that is occurring at Washington suggests to us that an effort is being made to restore the high duties of former times, we are not unaware of the fact that a considerable element in the United States, including even Republicans, look with grave doubt upon this movement and would be glad, I think, to find some basis upon which they could come to an agreement. I know that there is a disposition among the leading men in the United States to regard Canada somewhat differently from the European world. The policy of the United States is protectionist when the Republican party is in power, but it is usually protectionist

as against Europe. I know that some leading members of the Republican party have in times past been prepared to say that they should give exceptional treatment to Canada, their nearest neighbour. If we make a move in the right direction there will be found not only in the Democratic party but in the Republican party influential men who will say: While we are prepared to deal with other countries in the spirit of legislation which has been proposed, we recognize that on account of her proximity and for other reasons we ought to pursue a more generous policy towards Canada.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, without further delay, I move, seconded by Mr. Mackenzie King:

That all the words after the word "that" to the end of the question be omitted and the following inserted instead thereof:

"In the opinion of the House, the Government should bring in a measure to approve, ratify, and confirm the agreement respecting reciprocal trade between the United States and Canada signed at Washington on the 21st day of January, 1911, by Hon. P. C. Knox on the part of the United States, and by Hon. W. S. Fielding and the late Hon. William Paterson, on the part of Canada, which agreement remains on the statute book of the United States."

Sir HENRY DRAYTON (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to rise on this occasion, though a somewhat unexpected pleasure; I have not been able to give to the subject that amount of work and degree of attention which should be characteristic of a reply to the hon. member for Shelburne and Queen's (Mr. Fielding). I shall not be able to give the House a long list of articles which are particularly affected; I shall have to deal more or less generally with the issue.

I agree with my hon. friend that it is quite possible to have a motion which does not involve censure of the Government, which does not call for a vote of want of confidence. It is quite possible to have a constructive motion; quite possible to have motions that are helpful and not calculated to work up a long debate and delay the proceedings in a House already delayed. But I venture to submit that such is not the character of the motion now before the House.

In the first instance, I wish at once to agree with some of the things that my hon. friend says. Certainly no one in Canada, so far as I know, is either looking for or hoping to make trouble with the United States. Canada, having regard to her size, her population and her resources, is immeasurably the best customer of the United States. It is also true that Canada, with