

Canadian soil, is a national as well as a commercial necessity. That such a road must be built, that it is, in the language which I have used a national and a commercial necessity, that it is a corollary of our status as a nation, that it is a requisite of our commercial development, is a proposition to which, up to this moment, I have heard no dissent.'"

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"The tariff against the United States was maintained and a preference given to England. The Canadian people were developing the natural resources of Canada in their own way. The natural resources of the United States were becoming exhausted, and on account of our trade and tariff policy many millions of dollars of United States capital had been forced into Canada, where it is employed in giving work to thousands of men. Large mills have been erected, and our wheat and other grains are being ground into flour and foodstuffs, and the surplus exported to Great Britain and her colonies and to foreign countries. A home market has been created; the provinces east and west are trading with each other in their natural resources and farm-products, and they are being more and more closely bound together by these relations. The Tariff Act of 1897, passed by the present Government, repealed the reciprocity legislation which was then in force. A fresh start was taken by both parties so far as reciprocity with the United States was concerned. Since then there were three general elections, viz.: 1900, 1904, and 1908, and reciprocity was never an issue before the people. On the contrary, the policy, to which I have alluded, to encourage east and west traffic, and trade relations with the Empire, the Grand Trunk Pacific and National Transcontinental Railways and other things inconsistent with reciprocity were all planks in the Liberal platform, and the country and the Liberal party had the right to believe that reciprocity was dead so far as Canada was concerned, and that it would not be revived without a mandate from the people and without full investigation into our conditions and businesses and without those concerned being heard.

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"Then six weeks ago this bomb was exploded," said Mr. Lash, "and after recovering from the first shock we began to see its meaning. We saw that it was practically a reversal of the policy which had been followed and developed by this Government since 1896. Look at the map again and see what it means. Instead of trade between the provinces being further encouraged, a north and south trade would to a large extent take its place. Our country would be tapped all along our southern boundary. British Columbia would trade with Washington, Oregon and California; Alberta and Saskatchewan with Montana, the Dakotas and States to the south; Manitoba with