

the evils which my hon. friend the leader of the House used to so graphically describe would be destroyed root and branch. But yet the manufacturers apparently have been content to be tied to the chariot wheels of the Liberal party, notwithstanding the many departures which that party have made with a view of superseding the very tariff upon which the manufacturers themselves absolutely rely.

I say, without any hesitation, hon. gentlemen, that in my judgment, Canada should remain fiscally independent. We are entering upon great economic changes. We are just beginning to realize our strength, our possibilities and the immense advantages which we enjoy, not only as an agricultural country, but as a manufacturing country, and in view of the fiscal upheaval which at the present time is going on in the United States and which will probably result at an early day, in a very substantial reduction in the American tariff, by reason of the Democratic party being the stronger party in Congress. Canada should not bind herself and should not tie herself up to any commercial treaty with our neighbours to the south, until this development takes place that will determine which political party in the United States will be in the ascendancy for some years to come. The Democratic party is strongly in the majority in the House of Representatives, and therefore it will be in the ascendancy in the Senate of the United States before or shortly after the next Presidential election. They are committed to a reduction of the tariff. Mr. Foss, the leader in the New England States on reciprocity, has strongly taken that position, and contends that before the United States should approach Canada with a view to entering into a reciprocity treaty the tariff walls of the United States should be taken down until they approximate the height of the Canadian tariff wall. But what does this government propose to do in view of these impending changes which are sure to come? Our government proposes to enter into a reciprocity treaty with our neighbours to the south under the very unequal conditions which at present confront us. In round figures they have a

tariff wall which represents 48 to Canada's 24. I ask is it statesmanlike, in view of these unequal conditions, to seriously propose to commit this country to a treaty of a binding character extending over a term of years, and particularly in view of the impending political upheaval, which is bound to come within the United States in the next two or three years? We have recently entered into commercial treaties with France, Germany and the United States and from close observation of the results of these treaties I am not convinced that they have been of any advantage to Canada, but quite the contrary. What are the results of the treaty which we entered into with France? Our exports to France fell off last year over five hundred thousand dollars, and our volume of trade with that country is not very great. Our imports from France increased by \$1,500,000. Is it any advantage to our country to enter into a treaty, of that nature by which we throw open our markets to the people of France while their markets are practically closed to us, so that our trade has fallen off five hundred thousand while their trade with us has increased a million and a half?

We have entered into a treaty with Germany, with what object in view? That Germany might do business with us, or that a market might be open in Germany for our products? What has been the result? The result has been that our imports from Germany the last year have exceeded our exports by one hundred per cent. They have sent into our market two dollars of merchandise for every one that we have sent into their market. Is there any advantage in entering into treaties of this nature? The United States propose to enter into a commercial treaty with this country. We find their imports into Canada exceed our exports by one hundred and ten per cent. Does any hon. gentleman in this Chamber think that the United States will deliberately enter into reciprocal relations with Canada by which that balance of trade will be reduced? I say not. In my judgment our home market is being neglected. We are looking to foreign shores to open up markets for Canada, and what do we find