

and I would say something like this to them, if I said anything: We have offered to exchange with you, on a free basis the commodities which we both produce ; we would prefer that reciprocity to any other, that is, an absolutely untaxed exchange of commodities, but, as you refuse to enter into such a treaty with us, then we will adopt your policy. As you will not give us untaxed reciprocity, we will reciprocate tariffs. (Cheers.) That is the language I would use to them, and I would not do it in a spirit of retaliation at all—I would do it simply in the interest of Canada.

I believe furthermore that a national policy is indispensable to the interests of the whole people. It is required to unite and weld them together with bonds of material interest stronger than any that exist at present. If our Confederacy is to take the place it ought to take in the hearts of its children, its widely separated Provinces and diverse peoples must be bound together by something purer, stronger, more unselfish, more patriotic, more national than "the cohesive power of public plunder."

INTER-BRITISH TRADE.

I would further endeavor to create and foster what I will call an Inter-British trade, that is, I would offer to England and to our sister colonies differential duties. I would discriminate in favor of British products.

Looking at our trade returns we should see what we import from foreign countries, and I would put certain duties upon those commodities. I would put lower duties upon what we import from Great Britain and our sister colonies—if the Mother Country and the other colonies would discriminate in our favor. (Cheers.) I feel satisfied that a reciprocal Inter-British trade might be established in that way which would raise the prosperity of this country and of the whole British Empire to a higher pitch than the most sanguine of us imagine. I believe it would lead to increased commercial prosperity, to a closer union of the British possessions, and that it would increase the warmth and strength of the connection which subsists between the various parts of the Empire. I do not see why we should not trade with the British West Indies on more favorable terms than with foreign countries, just as the States of Maine and Massachusetts trade with Louisiana. I do not know why we should not carry on such a trade with India and Australia as the Eastern States do with California. I believe if representatives of the Mother Country and of all the colonies met in London, they would discover that an Inter-British trade, such as I have lightly touched upon, might be inaugurated with the promise of great advantage to all parts of the Empire. At all events I think it would be worth trying, and that the present would be an especially favorable time to make the attempt. The present Prime Minister of England, the great Lord Beaconsfield, is pre-eminently the man to grasp and develop such a scheme. (Cheers.) It is possible that some theoretical free traders in England might object to Inter-British trade conducted on the principle of differential duties, in favor even of their own country, but I believe the practical business men of Great Britain