

OUR ANNUAL TRADE

In this last fiscal year, the total volume of our trade amounted to \$759,000,000—of that, \$404,000,000 is made up by our trade with the United States. More than that, Canada, as they ought to know, in proportion to her population, is infinitely the best customer that the United States has ever possessed. I have here a statement which I propose to hand to the press, from which you can see for yourselves what position Canada occupies to the United States in this particular. This is not a case of Canada first and others second or third—but Canada first and the others nowhere!

Canada per head took from the United States \$29 for every man, woman and child in Canada. The nearest approach to this is Great Britain, which took \$12. The United States exports to Canada were very much greater than those to South America with Mexico thrown in, though these countries contain some 62,000,000 to our 7,000,000 or 7,500,000. They were nearly double our exports to France, and almost equal to our exports to Germany, and are now more than half our exports to Great Britain. Now is it not a perfectly fair inference on my part that if under the circumstances I have detailed, the trade of Canada had grown from \$100,000,000 in 1896 to \$350,000,000 in 1910, and to \$404,000,000 in the present year, that if we relax our trade restrictions it may easily touch \$700,000,000 or \$800,000,000 in five years, and likely enough \$1,000,000,000 or \$1,200,000,000 in the course of ten years?

If we continue to advance during that period in the same ratio that we have done in the past decade, Canada will not only become relatively the best customer, but absolutely the best customer which the United States possesses. That to my mind is the only way to ensure stability in our relations, for you may reasonably assume that the United States will not be foolish enough to destroy a trade with their best customer.

GREATEST GIFT OF PROVIDENCE

Sir, when I hear these people whimper that we cannot compete with the people of the United States, I would like to call your attention to the testimony of that eminent political economist, Mr. David Wells. Here, sir, is what Mr. Wells had to say of the country which the farmers of Ontario inhabit:

"North of Lakes Erie and Ontario, and of the River St. Lawrence, and east of Lake Huron, south of the 45th parallel of latitude, and included mainly in the present Dominion of Canada, there is as fair a country as exists on the American continent—nearly as large in area as New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio combined and equal, if not superior, as a whole to these states in agricultural capability. It is the natural habitat on this continent of the combing-wool sheep. It is the land where grows the finest barley which the brewing interest of the United States must have if it ever expects to rival Great Britain in its annual export of eleven millions sterling of malt products. It raises and grazes the finest of cattle, with qualities specially desirable to make good the deterioration of stock in other sections, and its climatic conditions, created by an almost encirclement