

We thoroughly understand the effect of our abolition of import duties on British manufactured goods, and how it would be felt on the United States revenue. And you can picture to yourselves the effect a discriminating duty, in our own favor, will have on the western farmer and merchant.

The issues are in your own hands. We have paid pretty dearly for the privilege of trading with you, but we knew our material progress and development required some sacrifice, and we were content to pay you \$7,934,243 per annum to secure that. But your politicians, by presuming that, like Esau, we would sell our birthright for a mess of pottage, will find themselves woefully mistaken; and after having inflicted on their own people a lasting injury, will perhaps begin to understand what is meant by the term "*allegiance*"

We are here to receive your overtures; to adjust with you our trade relations as reasonable and sensible business men. We responded freely to your call. We made no movement for the abrogation of this Treaty, nor did the prospect of that consummation affect us very much. We made no effort to stay the proceedings your Government wisely or unwisely had inaugurated; but when, like sensible business men, you proposed to talk this matter over in Convention we acceded to your request, and are here to receive your propositions.

Sincerely desirous of preserving amicable trade relations with our neighbors, we are fully aware of the advantages we enjoy, physically, geographically, and commercially, and are not disposed to throw them away for theoretical or speculative benefits, of more than doubtful character.

I have endeavored to place fairly before you the advantages the British North American Provinces possess in assisting the development of your own and their resources, and which, by a judiciously planned system of commercial intercourse, can be fully realized.

In concluding this address, I would remark that, as this is the first great Commercial Convention on record, it is to be hoped its proceedings will mark an era in the history of mankind, characterized by *peace, good will*, and the removal of national and sectional prejudice or jealousy, as well as the establishment of an enlightened commercial policy, more in accordance with the progress of civilization than that hitherto followed.