

country. We view with every satisfaction the progress and prosperity of our western land and will cordially co-operate in every movement for its further advancement. But we cannot be expected to be indifferent to the conditions that are nearer to us. Freer trade relations with the United States have been the dream of every leading Canadian statesman for nearly half a century. In the Lower Provinces particularly the importance of such better trade relations has been universally recognized. The Conservative policy of higher tariff was only accepted by its own friends because it was declared by Sir John Macdonald himself and by other statesmen of his party to be the best possible road towards obtaining reciprocity with the United States. The increase of our inter-provincial trade and our trade with Great Britain is gratifying and we must see that every reasonable effort is made for their further expansion. But if, in addition to these, we can give our people that access to the United States markets for many of our natural products which they have been seeking for so many years, we shall undoubtedly bring new life and new hope and new strength to this eastern part of the Dominion.

The great industries of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island are farming, fruit growing, fishing lumbering and mining. Every one of these industries has been well considered and cared for in the reciprocity agreement.

THE COAL TRADE.

Our chief mining industry is that of coal. Duties on coal and flour have usually been bracketed together in the past—one being treated as beneficial to the West, the other to the East. Under the agreement, there is to be a reduction of the duties on both coal and flour. I believe that I am justified in saying that our chief coal operators regard the coal situation under the agreement as a satisfactory one,