

year 1900 was \$2,012,583,300, and Mr. Ross asks free trade England to impose a duty of 5 per cent. on these imports—such duty amounting to over \$100,000,000—asks her to do that which all her great men believed would simply ruin her as a nation and a people, in order to induce the Colonies to contribute a like duty which would amount to about \$7,000,000! According to his Glencoe deliverance the British workman would not submit to a five per cent. duty on merely food products from foreign countries, amounting to \$45,000,000, and therefore is it likely he would submit to a similar duty on all foreign imports amounting to over \$100,000,000? Mr. Ross' earnestness in this matter may well be doubted. I am afraid the garments in which he is masquerading are borrowed and therefore not a good fit. His proposition is not in line with the true idea of Imperial Federation, nor is it—and probably it was not intended to be—a proper basis on which to build up a system of Preferential trade.

We Canadians require no bribe to induce us to take up willingly our share of the burdens of the Empire, nor will we haggle about terms at all. There can be no mistake as to the spirit which actuates our people. The response of His Majesty's Canadian subjects with reference to their manifest duty in this respect will be warm and ready and the spirit in which they will stand by the grand old Mother of Nations across the sea will be the spirit in which Ruth shewed her devotion to Naomi in the beautiful Bible story.

"Ask me not to leave thee nor forsake thee for where thou goest I will go and where thou lodgest I will lodge, thy people shall be my people and thy God my God. And where thou diest will I die, and there will I be buried—The Lord do so to me and more also if aught but death part thee and me."

This is the spirit always fostered and encouraged by the Great British-American Imperialist, Sir John Macdonald, whose last war cry to the people was the Imperial slogan, "A British subject I was born, a British subject I will die," and whose fervent hope and aspiration was that, in the near future the Dominion of Canada will take her place as one of those outlying and auxiliary kingdoms which will as time goes on, become the buttresses and bulwarks of the British Empire all round the world. And the people of Canada to-day are to a man imbued with the same hope and the same aspiration. Great changes come quickly in these latter days. Already Sir John's aspiration has been practically accomplished and nothing remains to be done but to watch the development of the Imperial spirit as it goes on from day to day with accelerated pace, and sooner even perhaps than we expect will come a practical solution of the question and the crystallization of sentiment into permanent legislation by the Imperial and Colonial Parliaments.

Now ladies and gentlemen, in conclusion I desire to ask you in your own interests and in the interests of this province of ours, the reputation and credit and fair name of which is I have no doubt dear to us all as a Christian people, and as a civilized people, appreciating the privileges and liberties which are ours, I appeal to you whether it will not be your bounden duty, not merely your privilege, because the franchise is the privilege of every man, I ask you to consider whether it will not be our duty to give your votes to our friend Mr. Charters, who as you all know, better than any outsider knows is a distinct credit not only to himself but to the locality which produced him? (Applause.) Surely it will be your duty to do that and having regard to the great and momentous questions which are now before the public mind, I have every possible confidence that when the time comes you will do so, and this grand old County of Peel which was represented once by a man like John Hillyard Cameron, will have as its representatives in the two Houses of Parliament, of Canada and Ontario, men like Richard Blain and Samuel Charters, men of whom a greater County, if such were possible, need not be ashamed. (Cheers.)