

No such Agreement would be made now.

No sane person to-day would think of throwing open our home market and inviting competition from the world when we do not need to do so.

If from self-interest the United States are willing to let Canadians into their own markets in order to make living cheaper in their country, that is their own lookout. They can do it if they choose.

On the other hand, Canada, from a similar motive of self-interest, should keep them out of ours—keep the Canadian market for the Canadian farmer.

And it will be a strange thing if Canada does not.

It will be a strange thing if Canada opens her home market to the farmers of thirteen countries without necessity, and I could at this time almost say without excuse.

We do not have to.

Messrs. Fielding and Paterson could not bind Canada. Only Parliament can do that.

But the Government even now seems bound to force this agreement through Parliament.

True, it might be a little hard on Messrs. Fielding and Paterson not to ratify their trade, but it is much better that they should suffer a little in their feelings than that all Canada should suffer, and the farmers in particular.

To say the least, the farmers should be given an opportunity to decide whether they wish to give away their own market, now that it is practically proved that they do not have to, to get the American market of doubtful value.

The National Aspect.

In closing I feel constrained to say a few words on the national aspect of this question.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier has said truly that the twentieth century belongs to Canada.

But now the United States are coming to us and asking us to share it with them.

We cannot shut our eyes to the fact that Americans are now looking with longing eyes towards Canada. They need and want our raw materials.

President Taft says we are now at the parting of the ways.

He and his people would mark out a new path for us—a path, as has been said, that leads from home, from the mother land.

The breaking of the commercial bonds which now help to bind us to the British Empire, and