

independence, fiscal and otherwise, to the President, as we would be about sacrificing it to the Kaiser.

There is, of course, no disrespect to our neighbors in this. The way to retain their respect is to display the maximum of respect for ourselves. They are a wonderful people with a wonderful country, but their ways are not our ways. We shall render them a service only less in degree than the service we shall perform for ourselves by adopting the view I have already quoted from the gospel according to St. Wilfrid. "That the best and most effective way to retain friendship with them is to be absolutely independent of them."

We must develop our institutions in our own way, and on British rather than American lines. For example: one of the glories of the Empire is the administration of justice. British courts are a model for the world. Another is the quality of public service in our cities and other communities. President Taft has written more than once that the administration of criminal justice in the United States is a disgrace to their civilization. I remember hearing Mr. McClure, the magazine editor, say to five hundred business men in Kentucky, that the government of the large cities in the United States is in the hands of the criminal and semi-criminal classes. Nobody protested. Our public life is imperfect enough, but at least we must avoid the troubles from which our neighbors find it so difficult to extricate themselves.

Then President Taft says that this agreement brings Canada to the parting of the ways. He can only mean that we must travel more closely with the United States or with the United Kingdom. There is no escape from this conclusion, especially when, after weeks of reflection he followed that saying—with its natural sequel. He said the bond that unites Canada with the Mother Country is so light as to be almost imperceptible, and that if reciprocity comes into effect it will, by insuring a social and commercial union with the United States, prevent a commercial union within the British Empire.

One does not have to be a Tariff Reformer in British politics in order to appreciate the significance of this declaration. What should we say if the German Emperor were to announce his desire to use an agreement with Canada, as a means of preventing commercial union within the British Empire? We may not be ready to-day for such a union, but I greatly mistake the ambition and temper of our people if they will permit President Taft or any other president, to put them in a position where such a union cannot be accomplished.

President Taft has used an ominous word in connection with the purely commercial aspect of this agreement. He has said it will lead to a greater control of the wheat trade of the world by the United States, because it will divert into American