

60,000,000, whereas we represent less than 5,000,000, especially when approached with candor by men sensitive to the honor of their country, but am confident that such a feeling would evoke nothing but respect from honorable men. I am fully aware that the plan of reciprocity which we would propose, each country keeping the control of its own tariff, might be at the first view liable to difficulties of a more serious nature, but difficulties, I submit, with full confidence, which might be met and successfully overcome by negotiations embodied in the treaty."

Mr. Laurier further truly said:—"It were childish for anyone to be deterred from a course the immediate consequences of which would be manifestly beneficial, because of the possibility of remote consequences which might not be in accordance with our conception of what things ought to be. By such considerations all progress in the world would be put an end to, for who could undertake to regulate in advance, or even to foresee, the infinite results of a step forward in the life of a nation?" Again he observed:—"In the very nature of things, from the sole fact that Canada is growing, developing and progressing, the interests of Canada and the interests of England must be divergent, and, whenever the interests of Canada are on one side and the interests of England are on the other side, the only consideration for me is what is best for Canada, leaving it to the people of England to consider and do what is best for England. This is not a question of sentiment, and, for my part, I am firmly convinced that the economic interests of Canada lie with this continent, and it is on the broad basis of continental freedom of trade that I place the question."

Many loyal British Canadians would endorse the same views. As for the Conservatives, when they were taunted with taxing British products as a policy opposed to British connection, the well-known reply of their organ was, "So much the worse for British connection."

The question of future Independence is not an issue between Conservatives and Reformers. So prominent a member of the Conservative government as the Hon. Mr. Chapleau, when speaking at Providence, R.I., the other day made the following obser-