

information, with the same result. Now, the only advantage that I see that has been gained from these negotiations, and from these visits, is this: the declaration that has been put forth by the United States Government through their reciprocity commissioner, Mr. Foster, that if we want to get a reciprocity treaty with them we have got to declare our protection proclivities—if we show the slightest sign of free trade in any shape or form we cannot have any reciprocity with the United States. We have got to come under the system of monopoly that I have been complaining of, and which has grown to such large proportions in the United States. We have to come under that, and adopt a protective system if we want reciprocity, and we have got to throw off the security afforded by, and throw off from this continent the power and influence in trade matter of Great Britain. These are the two things that have been put before us, and I say, so far as eliciting that information is concerned, the visit that the Government has paid during the last year has made that apparent to the people of Canada, and to that extent it is an advantage, but beyond that I do not think we have gained any advantage at all. Before the people of Canada would consider for one moment the throwing off of the allegiance to Great Britain—the throwing off of the commercial ideas of the English people, which is free trade—before they will abandon that—before they will abandon the advantages that the commerce of Canada receives by being protected on the high seas—without throwing away from themselves the advantage that the organization all over the world of the British consulates and its ambassadors, and the treaty negotiations their markets secure, they will ask themselves what advantages have the United States to offer in comparison? It is a mistake for the people of the United States to think that we are bound down by any oppressive ties. We are as free as the air. The State of New York possesses sovereign rights in the Great Republic, but not nearly such sovereign rights as the people of Canada possess within the limits of the British Empire. But, hon. gentlemen, if we want to improve our position so far as the British market is concerned, if we want to improve our relations with Great Britain we must show that we appreciate the commercial features of their system by adopting a different policy

from what we have been acting under during the last ten years. We want to show the people of Great Britain that we have a country, and have resources, and that we are prepared to endeavour to develop those resources upon the same lines that they themselves have developed their mineral wealth and power so eminently successfully, and we will enlist their capital to assist us. We have in Nova Scotia a province situated similarly to the British islands across the Atlantic—the same coal and iron, the same shipping facilities, the same sea-girt shores and harbours, and if we adopt a policy that will enable the people of Nova Scotia to utilize these resources upon the same terms as have developed the manufacturing power of Great Britain, British capital will go there I believe, and those resources will be developed—the wealth of Canada will be increased. We have the same advantages in the Province of Quebec—we have the same advantages in Ontario. We have our inland navigation, which is second to none in the world. Our ports in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec possess all the advantages of cheap transport, and our chief towns all within easy access. What we want to do is to develop that line of communication, to increase the shipping that utilizes that navigation, and how can that be done? By developing the great North-West Territories; by pouring down from the vast prairie country the grain that we are capable of growing there, and in order to make it profitable to the people of the North-West to grow wheat they must be permitted to buy in the cheapest market and they must have cheap transportation facilities, and that cannot be had unless the ships have return cargoes to cheapen the cost of taking the wheat across to its natural market, and the only way to develop these return freights is to open our markets to the people of England and take from them all that they can furnish us with, whether in iron, cotton or anything that they have to give us in return for our produce, and thus increase our shipping facilities and the profits of the producers in the North-West. And if the people of the United States, in their competition with Great Britain, can furnish anything to us cheaper than we can furnish it ourselves under a free trade policy take it from them and we will be the gainers as a people, and those industries depending upon the markets of the