

are fools enough to do it, but they had better have a care. Should they commit such a monstrous proceeding, there are 2,000,000 sturdy Westerners, likely soon to be 4,000,000, and likely in no long time thereafter to be 6,000,000, who will have to be heard from on this question. Do you suppose that they will succeed in stopping them, and a great majority of the people in the Maritime Provinces, and in Quebec, and the majority of the farmers in Ontario?

But they have a further argument, "Everything is well with us, why not let well enough alone?" I deny this premise. I say everything is not well with us. It is true there is great prosperity in many portions of the country, but it is not by any means equally diffused. Ontario is very prosperous, the Northwest is very prosperous, a portion of Quebec is very prosperous, but what of the balance? What of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island? None of these provinces have shared, or only to a very limited extent, in the prosperity of the rest. Nor is there any reasonable hope that they will ever share, except it be through the medium of this identical reciprocity arrangement.

THE CROWNING ABSURDITY

But for a crowning absurdity, commend me to their fear lest reciprocity should have a disastrous effect upon the British preference! Sir, let me recall how these men fourteen years ago welcomed the little stranger when we first introduced the proposal to grant a preference to British manufactures. Let me remind them what their predecessors said of British connection three and thirty years ago, when I, myself, and Mr. Mackenzie pointed out that it was a very strange way of strengthening that connection to double or treble or quadruple our taxation upon British goods. What was their answer then, sir? "If the national policy be had for British connection, then so much the worse for British connection!"

Sir, their regard for British preference is truly wonderful. They are prepared, if need be, to enact a prohibitive tariff 100 per cent. above proof against the world in general and then admit British goods at a tax of 50 per cent. *ad valorem*, so as to secure what they are pleased to call "adequate" protection. Well, it is a curious coincidence—our Western farmers want to see British goods introduced at a reduction of 50 per cent., too. The only difference is in the starting point and in the results!

RECIPROCITY ADVOCATES AND OPPONENTS

Now, sir, let us consider who advocate this reciprocity pact and who oppose it, whether here or in the United States. First and foremost stands Mr. Taft, the president of the United States, elected by the whole people, as well qualified to speak in their name as any single man can be, backed by a huge majority in the popular house fresh from a popular election. By whom is Mr. Taft opposed? By certain recalcitrant members of the Senate of the United States. Now, sir, I am perfectly aware that the United States Senate contains many capable and honorable men, but I also say that the United