

and which he has taken every suitable occasion during the last 30 years to express. He sees no reason why he should not feel as strongly in favor of British connection as in early days. He thinks also that it is of importance that we should have reciprocity between this country and the United States in the natural products and the manufactures of the two countries. He is thoroughly in accord with his party in that respect. There are some matters in connection with it on which he has publicly stated his views. He has declared himself as not in favor of a zollverein or of commercial union; but he is satisfied that in seeking unrestricted reciprocity we are acting strictly in accord with the wishes of men who desire a continuance of British connection. . . . If the Americans will not agree to complete reciprocity, it is quite certain they will not agree to a partial measure. It can be demonstrated that unrestricted reciprocity would be an advantage to the United States as well as to Canada. No doubt they would like us to give our country to them. That we never will do. But as a business people, when they see that our loyalty and national sentiment will not allow us to give more than unrestricted reciprocity, it is reasonable to believe that a sensible people will not refuse what will be an advantage to them, though they cannot get what they would prefer."

The Liberal party having adopted in their platform this plank of unrestricted reciprocity, the Conservative leaders and public journals raised for party purposes the cry that unrestricted reciprocity would lead to political union, and they asserted that the Liberal leaders contemplated and desired political union. This at the last general election for the Dominion was the Conservative answer, both to the arguments of unrestricted reciprocity, and to every charge of maladministration made against the Conservative Government; and so strong is the attachment of Canadian people of all classes to British connection, and so sensitive in regard to everything that might seem to endanger it, that the Government obtained a majority at the elections, notwithstanding the collapse of the National Policy, and in spite of the bad legislation and bad government with which the Conservative Administration was chargeable.