

course with the United States practically suspended. Twice they have been warned very emphatically of the danger of the course they have been pursuing. I would be glad to believe, even at this hour, that the hon. gentlemen had awakened to the real sense of the situation, and were prepared to take the only step which, as I have said, can be taken with any reasonable chance of success for the purpose of doing what they declare in the Speech from the Throne they have always been desirous of doing, namely, establishing our relations with the United States on such a footing that they are not likely hereafter to be disturbed. There can be no doubt whatever that the line which the hon. gentlemen have chosen to pursue, through their press and their advocates in Parliament, is of all others the one most calculated to destroy all chance and opportunity of obtaining such a treaty. They all know right well that the people and the Government of the United States are singularly well informed of all that occurs on this side of the line. Our language is the same; our press is freely exchanged with theirs; they have a whole army of consular agents in this country; and I can tell them that every jingo speech, every jingo article, every foolish sneer by the hon. gentleman or his friends at the people of the United States, is of necessity re-echoed in the press of that country, and will of necessity exercise a most prejudicial influence on any negotiations which he or others may originate. I hold any man in this country, be his place or position what it may, who chooses to foster that foolish and silly prejudice which exists in the minds of some portion of our people against our kinsmen in the United States, is in the highest degree a traitor—a traitor to Canada, a traitor to the British Empire, a traitor to the British race. Those are my opinions on that subject, and I think I have a far better ground for stigmatizing as traitors those who for the last few years have been for their own party purposes creating bad blood between the people of this country and the people of the United States, than those hon. gentlemen have had to so stigmatize myself and my hon. friends on this side of the House because, forsooth, we desire to trade freely with our neighbours, and to bring back as far as we can the people of the United States into that friendly and cordial union with Canada and the British Empire, on the furtherance of which object I venture to say the best hopes of humanity depend. That is my view of the relation that ought to exist between the two countries. I have said for the last twenty years that there is but one real and important service which Canadian statesmen can render to the British Empire, and that is in every possible shape and way they can to bridge over the gulf which for the last hundred years has unfortunately subsisted between the two great divisions of the English race. Sir, I believe that if the hon. gentleman even now were to apply himself to that noble end he might, in spite of all he has done in the other direction, in spite of all the mistakes he has made and the foolish language in which he and his friends have indulged, establish a much better claim than he has ever done to the thanks of his country and the thanks of the people of the British Empire whom he professes a desire to consolidate; and I commend to him and his Government the consideration I now offer,

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whether there is or can be any one step which he or any man can suggest which is more likely to bring about that desirable result than the policy which the Liberal party, through my hon. friend and myself, has often propounded, namely, the fullest, freest and most friendly relations that can be obtained with the people of the United States.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat has given us the intimation very early in the session that whatever may be the wishes or the thoughts of members on this side of the House, we are not going to escape full discussion. I think the speech of the hon. gentleman, and the discussion upon the Address, which has taken place upon that side of the House to-day, is sufficient evidence of that without an express declaration in so many words. But if the discussion to which we are to be treated throughout the length of this session, be it long or short, is to be so discursive and iterative as the speech of the hon. gentleman for the last hour has been, I think we shall not be very heavily hit or very badly hurt thereby. I have listened to the hon. gentleman when he has been happy in his remarks—I mean happy from his point of view—strong, crisp, connected and terse; but the boundless iteration, the going round and round and the coming back to the only three points he has urged in the two or three hours he has been speaking, has been somewhat surprising, and has shown that the labours and toils of the election have not yet been fully recovered from. Well, Sir, what has been the burden of the two speeches we have heard from the other side? First, that the Government and their party have been badly shattered; secondly, that we—that is the Opposition—have been beaten; thirdly, that we have been beaten unfairly; fourthly, that the proposed negotiations have been a sham from beginning to end, His Excellency has been imposed upon, the people of Canada have been treated to a fraud, and that there is only one way out of this humiliation which the Government have brought upon themselves in Canada, and that is by adopting “our” policy; and, Sir, I leave it to the members of this House who have listened to the hon. gentleman’s long speech to say whether he has by any one sentence intimated clearly and definitely what is the policy which he invites us to adopt—what are its main essentials; what are even its principles? With regard to the statement that the Government have come back badly shattered, any way we are here, and if hon. gentlemen will turn up the records of the election of 1887, they will find that the Government to-day has come stronger out of the last contest than it did out of the election of 1887. And I think they will also find—although this is a little in the line of prophecy—that as the years roll on, the same process will be repeated from 1891 to 1895, which had place from 1887 to 1891; and the only basis on which I rest that prediction at present is this, that the grounds hon. gentlemen opposite have for appealing to the people are not a whit stronger to-day than they were in 1887, but, on the contrary, are weaker. The hon. the leader of the Opposition declared that his party was beaten by unfair tactics. He bewailed the fact that dissolution took place. He has bewailed that fact ever since the order went forth for an election, on every platform where he has taken his stand. He