

although as a matter of fact nothing was ever done under this! We tried again and again to obtain for our farmers the benefits of freer trade, and all our attempts were treated either with cold indifference or spurned!

Then came the difficulty over the Behring Sea matter and the Alaskan matter, and the result was that in the Spring of 1910 a feeling of suspicion and distrust had permeated the minds of most of our citizens as far as governmental dealings with the United States were concerned. The friendliest possible feeling existed towards our acquaintances but a settled conviction of distrust existed towards their government. I put it in a sentence in New York, by saying that we loved them as a people, but as a government we distrusted them!

In the Spring of 1910, owing to a clause in the Payne-Aldrich tariff, which required the President to rule that the tariff of any country was not discriminating against the United States otherwise the maximum tariff would be applied to articles coming in from that country, a very critical situation arose. We had recently made a treaty with France, and while President Taft was perfectly willing to recognize that a preference given to the Mother Country, or to sister dominions over seas, was not within the intent or spirit of discrimination, yet because of certain items in the treaty with France, he felt that it would be impossible, unless some concessions were made to the United States, to do otherwise than rule that there was discrimination in fact against the United States. A section of our press and a great many of our public men clamoured for the stand-pat doctrine and that we could not yield a jot or tittle upon the subject. With exceeding wisdom, I think, the authorities at Ottawa did make certain con-