

countries, because it is not for us to express any opinion as to one party or the other in the United States—that happy condition so far as our trade relations were concerned continued until very recently. In the very recent national elections for the Presidency of the the United States a change again occurred. The Republican party, the party historically favouring high tariff, has again come into power, and we are now face to face with a condition which, I think we might fairly say, should give us cause for some anxiety. Several months ago, while the Democratic party was still in power, a Republican movement took place in the form of what is called the Fordney Tariff Bill. Many of us thought that in view of the change of administration that was

likely to come, American tariff legislation would be postponed for some months. However, for reasons which these gentlemen thought good, at the earliest stage after the election of the Republican president, a movement was brought into the United States Congress which took form in the shape of the Fordney Bill. That Bill made very important changes. It proposed to levy duties, not on the products of Canada particularly, but on the products of the world, but which were likely to operate, surely I might justly say, to the manifest disadvantage of Canada. I have here a table showing, as respects a number of articles, how the Fordney Bill, if it had been passed, would have affected us.

	Reciprocity Agreement.	Present U.S. Tariff	Fordney Bill
Cattle.....	Free.....	Free.....	30 per cent.
Sheep over 1 year old.....	Free.....	Free.....	\$2 per head
“ under “.....	Free.....	Free.....	\$1 per head
Wheat.....	Free.....	Free.....	40c. per bushel
Wheat flour and semolina.....	50c. per bbl.....	Free.....	20 per cent.
Corn and maize.....	Free.....	Free.....	15c. per bushel
Beans.....	Free.....	25c. per bushel.....	2c. per lb.
Potatoes.....	Free.....	Free.....	25c. per bushel
Onions.....	Free.....	20c. per bushel.....	40c. per bushel
Flaxseed.....	Free.....	20c. per bushel.....	30c. per bushel
Fresh frozen meats.....	1½c. per lb.....	Free.....	25 per cent.
Butter.....	Free.....	2½c. per lb.....	8c. per lb.
Cheese.....	Free.....	20 per cent.....	23 per cent.
Fresh milk.....	Free.....	Free.....	2c. per gallon
Fresh cream.....	Free.....	Free.....	5c. per gallon
Apples.....	Free.....	10c. per bushel.....	30c. per bushel
Cherries.....	Free.....	10c. per bushel.....	4c. per lb.

With respect to the item of wheat, there was some variation and I am not sure but in the final stages of that Bill the tariff was reduced to 35 cents.

I think we may justly say that if that Bill had passed it would have been generally recognized as being to the disadvantage of Canada. The Bill did not pass. It passed both Houses of Congress, and it seemed to have every probability of becoming law but for one fact—the Democratic president who was still in power vetoed the Bill. If any injury was coming to us in Canada by virtue of that Bill, we escaped it by the veto power of President Wilson. Now a changed condition has occurred. President Wilson is no longer there to veto, the Fordney Bill is again before the United States Congress—it will be introduced to-day—and we are face to face with the prospect of having these duties applied against the products of Canada.

Now, let us make no mistake. Canada is not dependent on the United States. We have the resources, the intelligence and the patriotism to get along without the United States, if it is necessary to do so. We have shown them that in the past in the face of a hostile tariff, and we shall be prepared to show them that again if the occasion shall arise. On the other side of the argument, it would be folly on our part to pretend that the United States is in any degree dependent upon Canada. The 110,000,000 Americans could probably live and prosper if the 9,000,000 Canadians were sunk to the bottom of the sea. The United States is the most self-contained country in the world. The British Empire, scattered widely over the world, has all the resources of the United States, but speaking of a consolidated country, the United States has within itself a greater variety of resources than any other country in