

On the contrary, the markets seem to be narrowing rather than enlarging. I have argued that an important step towards success would be the

DIRECT NEGOTIATION OF COMMERCIAL TREATIES.

(Loud and prolonged applause.) My opinion is that there are business affairs which are best managed by those who know most and best about the business. They involve discussions with reference to advantages and disadvantages. The commercial and fiscal policy of England differs widely from ours; their lives are different, their views are different. It is necessary only to look to their public despatches upon analogous questions to observe. We have found it stated in Parliament that we just missed a most advantageous convention with France by twenty-four hours, because our then Agent-General at Paris had to refer it to the Foreign Office in London. Before the answer came the happy moment was lost, and the treaty was lost too. That has been stated by the First Minister at Ottawa, yet he says it would be a great harm for Canada to have power to negotiate treaties direct. In that case it would not have been harm. It has been said to me, How do you expect you will be able to enforce your treaties by war unless you negotiate it through the medium of the British Ambassador? Well, I never should propose to enforce a commercial treaty that way. (Applause.) I am rather a man of peace myself, at any rate, but the idea of insisting that, if a commercial convention is broken, you will go to war about it, seems to me perfectly absurd. (Applause.) It is said that we are too small to engage in commercial treaties advantageously. It depends upon the advantages of a treaty whether we will negotiate it or not. It does not depend upon our size, which is respectable, our numbers which are considerable, or our trade which is not to be despised, but upon the question whether the other party thinks it is a good bargain to enter into or not. It seems to me the arguments against our position are entirely fallacious, and that common sense and experience alike indicate that a step in advance would be taken if Canada had the power to make her own commercial treaties. (Loud applause.) All these things, however, these constitutional questions, and those affecting the future of our country, we shall settle wisely and well if we recognize the great leading principles upon which we should govern. I have said that for Canada one of these is the full and ample recognition of the Federal principle. And I say generally that for Canada, as for the Provinces of Canada,

THE DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLE

is the second great principle. We are not to forget that we live in a democratic

age, and that we are one of the most democratic products of that age. (Applause.) All over the civilized world, for the last twenty-five years, it has been plain to the observer that there has been approaching what is called the reign of the common people. Ever since the series of revolutionary movements which agitated the continent of Europe a few years ago, it has been marked, even in those old-world monarchies, buttressed round as they were by the great feudal buttresses and ramparts, and overborne as the people were by heavy taxation and enormous forces of armed men, as the great movement that has been going on. And here in this happy land, these difficulties have never supervened, you have had no feudal ramparts to batter down; no standing army to overawe you; no great aggregation of wealth or power in few hands; no hereditary aristocracy, no reason why here the democratic principle should not be applied. (Loud applause.) It may go upon two lines, and upon this continent both are being tried—the presidential system on the other side and the system of British freedom, which, for my part, I have approved and advocated as being in this country. It is being tried here under circumstances more favorable than at the moment exist in England, yet in that Old World you see how strong the democratic spirit is. Within a few days the great Prime Minister of England will have consummated that grand measure under which the electorate of the United Kingdom will be increased from three millions to five millions. (Great applause.) You will see a representative Government always, when there was a great question to be decided which moved the heart of the people democratic, but still under ordinary circumstances, aristocratic under the great power of the peers and the unhappy arrangement of the electorate districts and the restricted franchise, which subsequently become plutocratic, and is to be now democratic by the combined effect of enlarged franchise and satisfactory redistribution of electoral districts. (Loud cheers.) Now the democratic principles has the greatest possibilities for good, and whether we believe in it or shrink from it, we have to face it. If the experiment has got to be tried, then, that it may have a chance to succeed to the uttermost—and all good men wish it to—it is our duty, and especially is it the duty of the young and active, to see what are the dangers to be guarded against and what are the real principles to be enforced. (Applause.) The division of wealth, not by communistic law, but by those happy conditions which prevail here, the repudiation from the statute book, and from those statutes which are shrined in the hearts of the people of the law of primogeniture; the distribution, as a rule, of a man's wealth equally amongst his children; the abolition—which I

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