

hered to; and with the publishing of such an edict as one embracing the adoption of what is good in western civilization (the Emperor formally announces that he intends to discard its bad features), the outer world may well be engaged in a scramble for foothold in the eighteen provinces of China and her dependent territories. In the train of Western civilization will be found western commerce, and the unrivalled internal waterways will know no liquid rest until the pioneers of trade have conveyed to every part of the Flowery Land the merchandize of a world too long excluded from intercourse with a people possessing unsurpassed aptitude for commercial pursuits and all the elements of national greatness.

**Lord
Herschell.**

Those who are inclined to belittle the difficulties in the way of a settlement of all the questions now being submitted to the members of the International Conference at Quebec cannot do better than to carefully peruse the speech of Lord Herschell at the dinner given to their distinguished guest by the Toronto Board of Trade. That this eminent British jurist, versed in the law of nations, can be relied upon to protect the interests of Canada and the Empire was never doubted, but his assertion to this effect was received with the highest and warmest appreciation.

In outlining some of the difficulties which add to the complexity of the negotiations at Quebec, Lord Herschell said:

I have no doubt that you would like me to state frankly my views about that commission—(hear, hear)—to tell you what is likely to be the result of our proceedings and what you may look forward to in the future. Happily, I possess the greatest possible security against any indiscreet revelations, and that is a condition of perfect ignorance. But, although unable to communicate to you any very certain conclusions as to the result of this conference, there are one or two assertions that we can venture to make. One is that, whatever result the conference may achieve, even if it be the most that human ingenuity can accomplish, or even what superhuman ingenuity can accomplish, it will not satisfy everybody. There will be many dissatisfied and discontented, and therefore the prospect is not altogether a cheering one, and, however successful I and my colleagues may be, we shall not satisfy many people. Indeed, I am not sure that it is not a possible result that we may achieve a signal success and yet not satisfy anybody, for it is not certain that that would not be really the most satisfactory result.

But, however that may be, I can assure you that I am fully sensible of the high importance of the mission in which I am engaged. I read in one of the journals this morning that the Canadian commissioners, with the exception of Lord Herschell, possess the advantage of thoroughly understanding the subject. (Laughter.) Now, gentlemen, I am not over-

disposed to speak very much of myself, but I think I may venture, without much boastfulness, to claim two qualities, very humble qualities to lay claim to, and the first is an unquenchable determination when I have any subject to deal with to get to the bottom of it and understand it thoroughly, as much of it is my intellect is capable of grasping and the other is the quality, partly perhaps natural, certainly sharpened by considerable practice, of sucking other men's brains and transferring their knowledge to my own mind. (Laughter and applause.) Now, I can assure you that that is the process that I have been engaged upon ever since I came in contact with my Canadian colleagues, and that I do not profess to have perfected the process yet. I think I can express the expectation that before our discussions are concluded I should make a very fair showing, even in a competitive examination. Now, gentlemen, of course, I am quite alive to the fact that many of the questions with which we have to deal are involved in much difficulty, but of all the questions that have to be discussed there is none that presents a problem of greater complexity than that which I perceive from the manner in which you received some remarks of your president, occupies an important place in your minds, that of trade relations with the United States. Now, I should lay down without hesitation as a broad and general proposition that when you have two peoples closely adjoining one another, with a vast coterminous boundary of thousands of miles, interlacing as they do at various points, that a large freedom of commercial intercourse between the two nations is likely to be of great advantage to both. While I lay that down as a proposition that to my mind is self-evident, I am of course alive to the fact that on both sides of that boundary there has been for many years in operation such tariff legislation as created in both countries an artificial situation that it is impossible to ignore, and that even the most convinced free-trader must face the situation and admit that any violent change suddenly made must necessarily produce results of a serious character in this direction, and must not fail to acknowledge, it would be unjust not to acknowledge this. This, of course, adds greatly to the difficulty of the situation. This is the main difficulty, but there is another. Pass along the boundary from east to west and it is impossible to shut one's eyes to the fact that interests on both sides of the boundary differ as you pass from east to west, and that that which is the desire of one part of the country, either of the United States or Canada, is not always the desire of another part of the country."

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In the last sentence of this quotation from an admirable speech may be found the greatest difficulty with which the members of the Quebec Conference have to deal—"that which is the desire of one part of the country, either of the United States or Canada, is not always the desire of another part of the country." It can be only by mutual concessions that anything will be accomplished at Quebec.