

expert advice with great care; to consider, first, what is best for Canada as a whole, having in view our future as a nation and as part of the Empire, and second, whether the interests of the consumer as a whole demand the cutting off of tariff protection and the coming of cheaper goods into the country; let those cheaper goods so far as possible be obtained by giving the benefit to the Mother Country, as being, as I say, our banker and our best customer, and as assisting the British workman, and if we are to have Reciprocity let it be so far as possible reciprocity within the Empire. I would not, even if we make trade arrangements with the United States, consider it advisable to make it in the form of a treaty. I have elsewhere expressed my views as to this as embodied in the trite phrase—common action by each in reference to any article intended to be made common, but freedom of action retained. There should be no practical difficulty about this. Let Congress, Senate and Executive pass an act making any article from Canada free upon our passing a similar act in relation to that article. This leaves both parties able at any moment to adjust their fiscal affairs in relation not only to each other but to all other countries.

It is my earnest hope that the whole subject may be made a matter of the gravest consideration at the earliest moment by an Imperial Conference, dealing with the whole question of the relations of the Mother Country with the overseas dominions and the connecting together of the Empire!