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study, said about two weeks ago: "Many of us must be pretty convinced that if the United States had been kind to Canada in the sixties it would be open to question whether Canada would exist today as a separate nation." I cannot remember how many years ago, perhaps about thirty, when I was living in Scotland there was some talk about reciprocity treaty between Canada and the United States and I felt violently opposed to it, because I felt sure that such a commercial union must soon lead to a political union. Today I have not the slightest thought of that kind. For two reasons, firstly, because of the difference in the conditions there was no preference in those days. Britain would have been separated from Canada by a high tariff wall. America and Canada would have been united by free trade. That cannot take place today especially if the farmers' proposals be carried out in full. Secondly, in those days I was completely ignorant of Canadian sentiment. After living in this country for twenty years I know that there is practically no annexation sentiment in Canada, but a very strong feeling against it. Even the Americans who settle among us seem to assimilate largely with us. Why should doing more business with a country tend to make us want to give up our own nationality? No one dreams that the United States would want to annex us by force. Canada seems to be growing every year more free, more independent, more truly a nation, and I am rather proud to think that our farmers' work at Ottawa stimulated and strengthened the united national feeling of the Canadian people. Our farmers' tariff proposals seem to be in the best sense broad and statesmanlike. They would tend to build up a great Canada, free, prosperous, loyal to Great Britain, friendly with America, a splendid connecting link between the two countries.

**George Langley, Maymont, Sask.**  
 When the monster demonstration of farmers went to Ottawa to place their view of public matters before parliament the tariff was made the chief point of complaint; both its principle and its incidence were denounced. I do not wish to discuss the abstract principle of tariff versus free trade, except to this extent—all tariff duties are prompted by selfishness, and the only possible defense is that selfishness may at times be justifiable. The main point of our complaint, however, was that in the incidence of tariff duties the farmers were being discriminated against, so that while the manufacturing interests were taxed by the operation of the tariff law, in their case it was merely taking money out of one pocket to put it back in increased quantities in the other while the farming class were drained without getting any benefit at all, or in other words, the tariff law had become a means of extortion from the farmers for the benefit of the manufacturing interest. The fight that is being put up at the present time by the protected industries and the capitalistic class on their behalf is in reality the battle of unreasoning self-interest against justice. It shows that no matter how indefensible a vested interest may be, human nature is so strange a mixture that the grossest wrong will find champions, if the wrong has dollars in it. That individuals growing quickly rich by the process of keeping the mass of the people poor is looked upon as a proper thing by those, even who discourse at length on the responsibilities of human brotherhood, and this being so it follows that the only way to make sure that the issue of the battle will be on the right side, is for those who are the victims and sufferers to gird up their loins and make it understood that they are in deadly earnest. Every kind of pretense is being pressed into service against beating down the tariff wall between the Dominion and our neighbors to the south. All the old arguments that were used in times past to lash neighboring nations into frenzy and produce war with all its useless misery, patriotism, jealousy, suspicion, the old stupidity that one nation can only become great by making another nation little, and so on without limit, everything in fact except the real thing, the whole of the real reasons for the fight, the protected interests are making, can be summarized in a line or two. Here they are: "We have made money by protection in the past; we are making money by it at present; and we want to continue to make money by it in the future." If we farmers hope to get justice done us, we shall only be able to effect our purpose by using all the weapons at our disposal. It is necessary for us to avail ourselves of every

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possible avenue of protest and appeal so that our influence may be felt. At present we have the issue out before us in a concrete form in the reciprocity agreement, which is being discussed at Ottawa by the federal parliament. It is an attempt to undo in some measure the wrong that the protective principle has done in the past, to open the avenues of exchanging the necessities of civilization between two kindred peoples. There are some of us who would like more than the agreement gives, but while this is true it is also true many are genuinely surprised that it gives so much, at any rate the fact that it proposes to make it possible to exchange freely the natural products of the two countries gives to the producers of the Dominion access to the markets of ninety millions of people, a fact which in itself is pregnant with possible developments, all of them of the most helpful kind. The farmers of the West will be recreant to the duty they owe themselves and this Western country if they do not unite in an unanimous demand that the agreement be endorsed. Its adoption will be a departure in policy, making known not only to the whole of Canada our intention and determination that the West of this Dominion is going to be heard in shaping the policy of Canada, but it will be a notification to the world outside that the conglomerate population of this country is not going to stuff itself by any narrowness of policy even when mis-called imperialism, that in fact we do not regard our imperialism as imposing upon us any duty of enmity toward the great free nation to the south of us. There has been—we are all cognizant of it—a disappointment that the duty on implements has not been materially reduced, but this can for the time being wait, not as a matter abandoned but as necessity deferred, a matter toward which our efforts in the immediate future may be directed. No farmer in the West will rest content until the implements, so essential to Western farming, are freed from the unjust impost at present placed upon them. But we shall be unwise to let our strong feeling on this matter interfere in any way with our support of the reciprocity agreement. Again the imperial preference under which the Mother-country is allowed to enter our markets, on terms denied to all other nations, is sufficient indication that the unity of interest all thoughtful Canadians entertain toward the Motherland, is not going to be in any way diminished, and the self-styled patriots can be appeased by an appreciable alteration

of the preferential duty. The farmers of the West will hail with feelings of the most complete satisfaction, the raising of the preferential duty from 33 1/3 per cent. to 50 per cent., and should this be opposed by the protected interests another proof will be given to the many we already have, that the patriotism of these gentry is only a cloak to hide the selfish purposes of the manufacturers. I am hopeful that at this juncture we will cast aside all party division and join forces to see that Western interests are served by the adoption of the reciprocity agreement.

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