

While we Canadians do not wish to interfere in Home politics, we have had facts and experiences which are useful in the discussion which has commenced and which is likely to continue for some time in regard to commercial matters in England. If the business men of England were to unite on a policy that would be to the interest of the manufacturers and traders of England and of the Empire both political parties would soon learn that as far as trade interests were concerned the same policy must be pursued whatever party nominally is in power. Personally, I was a believer in the theory of free trade, but the situation of Canada alongside of the United States and facts that have come before me in my profession prove to me that the theories of free trade are not always supported by the facts of business.

Some time ago Great Britain stood at a distance from all her competitors. The time taken in forwarding letters and goods made the country stand alone. She had no neighbour in the situation that Canada has had.

The introduction of quick transit by means of steam both on land and water, the use of the telegraph and telephone whereby orders are given from one man at Manchester to factories at Birmingham, France, Germany and the United States, have made these factories next door neighbours. A gentleman in Manchester stated to me that the German manufacturer was practically as near to him as the Birmingham manufacturer. The German manufacturer can send his goods to England without duty, while he keeps for himself his home market by a heavy duty on English