

Nor were we prepared to say that no considerations but those of material interest should be taken into account. Most of us held the reverse.

It seemed clear that unrestricted reciprocity would be quite as much for the advantage of our neighbors as of ourselves, and it might, therefore, reasonably be expected that a fair measure would be agreed to without the condition of political union, or of what would amount to political union. To political union we would not agree. To any reciprocity short of unrestricted reciprocity in the manufactures of the two countries it was certain the United States would not agree.

THE LAST DOMINION ELECTIONS.

For myself, I accepted these views as regards both British connection and unrestricted reciprocity; and when asked by the Dominion leaders to join with others in active work for the party at the last general election, as I had done at all previous Dominion elections since I returned to public life, I did so very heartily. I believed that it would be of immense service to Canada to effect a change of Government at Ottawa; or even to effect an increase in the number of Liberal members, though the election should not result in a change of Government. I believed that unrestricted reciprocity would be a good thing, and that the attachment of our people to British connection was so strong and had borne so many tests that it would stand this test also.

I expressed these sentiments for you also, by your request, at the meetings in East York which I attended on your behalf. I was reported at the time as saying of you in substance as follows:—

“Mr. Mackenzie thinks it important that the present Ottawa Government should be defeated for all the evil it has done in the past, for all the evil it is doing now, and for all the evil it will be certain to do in the future if it gets a renewal of power. With respect to the issues which are interesting the people now, I am authorized and instructed by him to say that he cherishes those loyal British feelings which you have always known him to have,