

be a revision of our tariff in which United States interests, United States lobbyists, and United States pressure will not be brought to bear on this parliament. What is the only possible effect? The only possible effect is domination of the smaller by the larger, and if you say you do not think there is any danger of any domination, I say that I think the domination has come now, that we have it in the discussion of this treaty. How did it get here, what brought it about? For 30 years the United States had nothing to say to us, and then, when we have finally, definitely won our commercial independence and put ourselves into such a position that we were perfectly independent, what happened? They shook a club over our heads, they threatened a surtax. It was threatened a year ago. Then our friends of the Government were asked to make concessions in order that this surtax might be avoided. The Government made some concessions. I think they were very trifling in character; I do not think they were of much importance, but I do think it would have been as well if the Government had stood its ground at the start. Nevertheless, we all know that in international matters it is necessary to leave a great deal to the Government. You cannot know everything that passes, and you must leave a great deal to the discussion of the Government in international matters. But I am prepared to say now that I think we all made a mistake. I think the time to have stood our ground was the first time the club was flourished.

#### FROM BRITAIN TO THE UNITED STATES

What has been the history of our relations with the United States? For the last 30 or 40 years we have been ignored and buffeted by them, and during all that time we have taken our way secure, firm, serene under the strong arm of the British Empire. Now we come to the point when we are of some use; we are just beginning to be of some use. Up to nearly the present time we have been more or less of a nuisance to the empire; now we are beginning to get to the point when we add something to the prestige of the British Empire, to the point when, if necessary, we can send some men, or some ships, or some money; we can be of some use to the empire that has given us our liberties and all the traditions of our citizenship. When we get to that point what happens? The United States beckons from Washington and we are asked, the first time anybody beckons, to turn from the path that leads to the capital of the empire, and to turn towards the path that

leads to Washington. I say, so far as I am concerned: Not for me.

What is the reason, I ask you gentlemen of this committee, representatives of the Canadian people, trustees of the Canadian people, of their highest and their best rights and liberties, I ask you what is the reason that is being put forward by the representatives of the people of the United States for proffering to us the terms which they are giving.

#### ON TO ANNEXATION.

There is Representative Clark, of the Democratic party. I decline to discuss for a second the suggestion that he was not speaking seriously. If it had not been for Mr. Clark and the Democratic party this treaty never would have got through the House of Representatives. It was he who put it through; let him speak for himself. He says that he and his party are in favour of this proposal because it leads to annexation. What did Mr. Taft, the leader of the Republican party, say? The Dominion of Canada is a strong country; it has a great storehouse of natural resources. He says it has been pursuing a strong and successful policy of development, but it has got to the parting of the ways. He says: Now, before the Dominion of Canada is irrevocably fixed in the policy which leads to the consolidation and the strengthening of the British Empire, we must turn her from her course. Is there any dispute about it? It cannot be disputed. I say to my hon. friends of the Liberal party, as well as to my hon. friends of the Conservative party: Stop and think; you are all grown men, you are all men of wisdom and discretion. Is it a safe thing for the representatives of seven and a half millions to say to the representatives of ninety millions of people: You may say what you like; we will take your terms, but we will not pay the price? Sir, for my part, I say that I do not think such a course is wise, and I do not think it is possible. I say that if we accept the terms we shall assuredly be called upon to pay the price.

#### MOST ENVIABLE COUNTRY.

Sir, I oppose these resolutions, because, in my judgment, they reverse the great and successful policy under which the people of Canada, fighting against poverty, against natural obstacles, against geographical conditions, have made of their country one of the most enviable in the world. These resolutions, in my judgment, spell retrogression, commercial subordination, the destruction of our national ideals and displacement from our proud position as the rising hope of the British Empire.