

That was the opinion of Mr. Blake several years ago, who he presided as Opposition leader of the Liberal party in Canada.

I submit now, Mr. Speaker, with all possible respect to the intelligence and capacity for comprehension of honourable members of this House, that it is abundantly clear that, whatever our opinion may have been heretofore, we cannot now arrive at any conclusion, we dare not arrive at any conclusion, other than that this reciprocity agreement, in its origin and in its inception, was intended to be worked out to its natural conclusion, or to what Mr. Blake calls "its ulterior purpose," so that in due time the United States of America would take under the aegis of American institutions all the British dominions on the continent of North America.

CANADA'S BIRTH AS A NATION.

Mr. Speaker, at the time of the abrogation of the old reciprocity agreement between Canada and the United States, the people then to the fore in the Government of the United States were quite convinced that all they had to do was to abrogate that treaty and within a very few years Canada would come willingly, indeed, anxiously and lovingly, within the folds of the American flag. Sir, Canada did not come. Canada's birth as a nation was coincident with the abrogation of that old treaty. (Loud cheers). Under no imaginable circumstances, at no imaginable time, could she have started out under better auspices for her future growth and her future career as a nation, one of the component parts of the British Empire. (Cheers). Over forty years ago, Sir, we started out with the Canadian union. We got together a number of provinces, separated by long distances, separated also because there was very little knowledge in one province of the people of the other provinces. They were separated, also, by differences of race and of creed, but the people of Canada set to work under the disadvantage of the abrogation of the reciprocity treaty to hew out their own destiny. And they have done it. (Loud cheers). We have had our little disagreements between the provinces, our little differences, Mr. Speaker. Difficulties have been found, as the years have gone by, but we have surmounted them all. A sturdy and determined patriotism has enabled the people of Canada to surmount all these obstacles, and today we are a united people, affording an opportunity for the rest of the civilized world to look on and see how a Christian and civilized people can, without going to extremes, reconcile differences that at