

“The States can pass transit duties, discriminating duties, prohibitory duties; they can, in fact, close our and Canada’s through trade altogether; they can terminate the postal treaty, and just drop Canada back into the age when railways were unknown for the transmission of letters. But once complete the proposed communication between the Provinces, and all those evils vanish. With an independent line through British territory from Halifax to Lake Huron—fourteen hundred miles transit—discriminating, prohibitory, nay, even protective duties, are utterly impossible; no argument, no treaty, no favour would so certainly secure free trade between this country and the United States as the completion of this railway route.”

Before the departure from Quebec of the Honourable Messrs. Howe and Tilley a private complimentary dinner was given to them by the Premier, at the Stadacona Club. To this I had the privilege of being formally invited. Several members of the Administration were present, in addition to Baron Boilleau, Consul-General of France. Of course I was duly presented to the distinguished guests from the sister Provinces, with whose ingenuous characters and sterling qualities I was highly impressed. These gentlemen were not charged with any special mission to