

because they had several lessons which must have opened their eyes to the fact that a very large number of the people of Canada desire full and

FREE AND UNRESTRICTED TRADE WITH THE UNITED STATES.

(*Loud cheers.*) But there is danger that privately they will do everything they can to make a fair treaty impossible. It cannot well be otherwise. Reciprocity between the United States and Canada means wealth and freedom to a very large proportion of our people—freedom particularly from unjust taxation, and from the power which this tariff put in the hands of the monopolists who are grinding the people of Canada to-day. Therefore, the Government to-day cannot earnestly seek to promote reciprocity, though it may be in their interests to so pretend. Unless the people of Canada convince them that it is at their peril that they push their negligence any further they will conduct these negotiations in such a way as to lead to foreseen and predestined failure. I do not think they will dare to provoke the United States, but I believe they will interpose obstacles between what we desire and its accomplishment. This is a case in which you must judge these men not by their words but by their acts, and it is by their acts in the past that we have to judge them; it is from noting such paltry quibbles as that in regard to packages on fruit, it is from noting such mistakes as that in regard to the export duty on logs, it is by such acts as these that I judge that, if they dared, they would be hostile to the people of the United States. I have shown what I believed, and I have given reasons for my belief, to be the true interest of this country at present. I am very far from saying that the position in which we find ourselves is the inevitable result of Confederation. I believe, on the contrary, that with reasonable prudence, our position might be very much better than it is. But it is idle to discuss that now. We are not concerned with what might have been, but with what is at this day and in this hour. I contend that our position is one of arrested development, and I say that, all things considered, this is the best way out of it. I say that not only is the project we advocate

EMINENTLY CALCULATED TO BENEFIT US MATERIALLY, but I claim for it this benefit, this indirect result, that, if it were carried out, it would necessarily curb the ex-