

pass through old villages along the St. Lawrence, like L'Assomption, you can still see the large stores with iron shutters where grain and flour were kept awaiting the opening of navigation in the spring, when they were exported to England under the preference which existed. Our canals were opened during that period, and many Americans came and settled in Canada, especially in the Ottawa district, in order to take advantage of the preferences.

Then Canada experienced the danger that lies in such preferential policies. All of a sudden the leader of the party then in power in England, and favourable to those preferences, moved by the acute situation which existed in the rural parts and in the industrial towns of that country, decided to change from the policy of protection to the policy of free trade. He remembered that free trade for more than a century had replenished the treasury of Great Britain and made her the most prosperous nation of the world. Sir Robert Peel became a Liberal and a free trader. What happened in Canada? The people who had settled here, the business men, the farmers and the millers who, relying on the British preference, had invested their money in Canada, protested loudly. Let me refer my right honourable friend to the documents published by Shortt and Doughty some years ago. There he will read the annexation manifesto signed by the best names in Canada, names such as Sir John Abbott, Sir Antoine Dorion, and a host of others, declaring that because of the wiping out of the preferences Canada was ruined, investments were brought to naught, and that Canadians had decided to look to their neighbours to the south for a market. That meant annexation pure and simple.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: What year was that?

Hon. Mr. LEMIEUX: That was in 1849. Lord Elgin, a good and sturdy Scotchman, was then the Governor of Canada. It was he who had rallied the forces of sensible Canadians and made possible responsible government. He wrote to his father-in-law, Lord Grey, who was then Prime Minister of England, requesting him to give his immediate attention to the problems that had suddenly arisen in Canada. I speak whereof I know. My father before me, and my grandfather, often told me of the agitation of 1837, of the annexation movement of 1849, and of the Confederation of 1867. There was at that time, as there is to-day, extreme distress in the larger centres. Lord Elgin in his letter to Lord Grey said: "If nothing is done you will lose Canada. The people are not happy,

because they are not prosperous. You must restore prosperity to Canada." And what did Lord Elgin recommend to the British Government? He recommended going to Washington and negotiating a treaty of reciprocity with our neighbours to the south. He spent six months in Washington—there is no question as to which flag he was labouring under—and he brought back what is known in history as the Elgin-Marcy Treaty. That treaty was in effect—only in regard to natural products, if I remember correctly—from 1854 until 1866. Again I know whereof I speak, because my father was a very humble merchant on the south side of the St. Lawrence, in the county of Napierville, and he often told me that that was the golden era for the farmers of Canada. They made small fortunes selling their cattle and other farm products to the Americans. The treaty would have been renewed in 1866 had not the attitude of the Canadian people been contrary to the Northerners during the Civil War.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The attitude of some of the Canadian people.

Hon. Mr. LEMIEUX: Most of them.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: To the Northerners?

Hon. Mr. LEMIEUX: Perhaps my honourable friend thinks the opposition came chiefly from Toronto. The best friend of the Northerners was George Brown of the Globe of Toronto, who in his own city stood up for the liberty-loving Northerners. I am sorry to say that even in Montreal, French Canadians of the highest repute stood by the St. Albans raiders and protected them before the courts. Those who have read the memoirs of Sir John A. Macdonald will remember a letter addressed to Sir George Cartier:

That fellow Coursol—

—he was the police magistrate in the extradition case—

—will cost the country half a million dollars, if not a little war with the United States, because of his judgment in favour of the raiders.

Now, if I remind my right honourable friend of this Reciprocity Treaty episode it is because I want him to make use of his ability on behalf of Canada. He has a remarkably clear mind and is wonderfully able. I do not say that just to compliment him. We all know that he is not here for ever; some day we shall lose him. He may enter another sphere of action, and possibly may lead the Government of Canada. We all wish him well, but he must rid his mind of any narrow ideas