

“The same relief from the burden of differential duties which has been granted to the British consumer, the 8th and 9th Vict., c. 94, has enabled their respective Legislatures to be extended to the British Colonies, by empowering them to repeal the differential duties in favour of British produce imposed in these colonies by former Imperial Acts.” “So far as [this] I can have no doubt that the Colonial Legislatures will gladly avail themselves of the power” thus conferred. The policy of protection, abandoned at the instance of Great Britain, is discarded by the opinion of the majority of the Canadian people. Undoubtedly there are both active and able agitators for protection, actual or incidental, but in face of the position, of the necessities of the Government, and of the difficulties of raising a revenue in another way, it is idle for English Chambers of Commerce and eminent newspaper scribes to accuse the Canadian people either of hostility or indifference to the British connection. No doubt there are instances of incidental protection, and these probably the leaders and adherents of the present Government of Canada will endeavour gradually to remove, because their policy is essentially a liberal policy, based upon a recognition of established principles of economy and of economic administration in the State, however imperfectly they may, in the present situation of affairs, be able to embody these principles in their policy. But, nevertheless, it is clear that the incidental protection I speak of is not sufficient to exclude British trade. In 1871-72 the trade with Great Britain constituted \$87,500,000 or 47.17 per cent. of the whole trade of Canada. Including the trade with other British provinces, the trade exceeded half the whole of the Canadian trade of the year. If you ask whether there is not in Canada a party of manufacturers who are in favour of protection, I am bound to admit that there is; but no one would think of comparing the mere streaks of protective policy in the Canadian political strata with the vast protective conglomerate of the other side of the border. Probably the rapid rush into these colonies of a population interested in selling agricultural products in the dearest market, and buying its requirements in the