

icy of oblivion followed by the mother country, we remained firm and staunch to our colours and we decided to live under the Union Jack instead of under the Stars and Stripes.

Mr. SPROULE. I think my hon. friend is doing Disraeli a great injustice by that statement; at least, I have no remembrance of his having made it.

Mr. LEMIEUX. Yes, I have read it many times. To-morrow I will pass the book in which it is contained over to my hon. friend. It is in Justin McCarthy's *History of Our Own Times*, and Justin McCarthy, although a well-known home ruler, is an up to date and fair minded historian. He states it in so many words. Goldwin Smith has also quoted it in his book on the Canadian question. Did we ever accept the interpretation of the Monroe doctrine, suggestive as it was, by the United States Secretary of State, Mr. Olney, to the effect that no European power would be tolerated any longer upon the American continent? Did we ever accept with fear the policy embalmed in Mr. Dingley's and Mr. McKinley's Bills? We stood the days of adversity like men, like Canadians, like British subjects and surely with prosperity we can trust ourselves. We gave willingly our help to Great Britain in South Africa. We have offered cheerfully our help to Great Britain for the well-being of the British Empire in the various colonial conferences and we have given, as I stated a moment ago, without expecting anything in return, a fiscal preference. If now, the westerner, in that beautiful country west of Lake Superior, can sell his wheat to the United States to better advantage, if the poor fisherman from Gaspé can sell his catch to better advantage to the eastern states, if the Prince Edward Islander can sell his potatoes in a wider market, if the Quebec habitant can add a dollar to his ton of hay, if the Ontario farmer can raise barley and do a better trade in cattle with the United States, surely his or their loyalty will not be impaired. If, on the contrary these things are done, as my hon. friend suggested this evening, at the cost of the loyalty of Canadians, then indeed the empire possesses no real strength.

I hold no brief to speak for my friends of the English persuasion, but I know that no English-speaking Canadian will ever barter his birthright for the flesh pots of Egypt. I know that no French Canadian at least would ever accept annexation. I can speak for my fellow countrymen. We in the province of Quebec, French Canadians one and all, Conservatives and Liberals are against any idea that smacks of annexation. Why? Because of the privileges we enjoy under the

British Crown. By the Quebec Act of 1774, under which Act our language, our faith, our laws, our customs, our usages have been respected in a privileged manner by His Britannic Majesty and by the imperial government. We know what has been the fate of our fellow countrymen in Louisiana and we know that as long as we live under the British flag, as long as we live under the benign laws of Great Britain, our rights and our privileges will be protected and safeguarded, and we are willing to do our duty towards the Crown of England which is not only a bond of unity between the colonies and the mother land, but also between the various races in those colonies. The sentiments expressed by Joseph Howe at the time of the Detroit convention are ours. They are ours to-day as they were ours in 1865:

I have heard it said since I came to the convention that if the reciprocity treaty is annulled the British provinces will be so cramped that they will be compelled to seek annexation to the United States. I know the feeling in the lower provinces, and I believe I am well enough acquainted with the Canadians to speak for them also when I make the assertion that no considerations of finance, no question of balance for or against them on the interchange of commodities can have any influence upon the loyalty of the inhabitants of the British provinces, or tend in the slightest degree to alienate the affections of the people from their country, their institutions, their government and their Queen. There is not a man who dare, on the abrogation of the treaty, if such be its fate, to take the hustings and appeal to any constituency on annexation principles throughout the entire domain. The man who avowed such a sentiment would be scouted from society by his best friends. What other treatment would a man deserve who had turned traitor to his government and violated for pecuniary advantages all obligations to the country that gave him birth? The very boy to whom I have alluded as having fought manfully for the stars and stripes would rather blow his own father's brains out than haul down the honoured flag under which he was born. If any member of the convention harbours the idea that in refusing reciprocity to British America they would undermine the loyal feelings of the people of those colonies, he is labouring under a delusion. . . . I sincerely hope that all thought of forcing annexation upon the people of Canada will be abandoned.

The sentiments of Joseph Howe expressed in 1865 at the Detroit Convention are the sentiments of Canadians in this year of grace 1911, on the eve of adopting this reciprocity treaty. I say further, that not only are we against any idea of political union with the United States, but that on the contrary, we believe that such agreements as these make for genuine Anglo-Saxon solidarity. The Trent Affair, the Fenian