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Had it been a question of a choice between industries and had I been master of the situation, yours would have been the last on the list to be touched, and this, I think, every member of the Cabinet will vouch for as being my known attitude. I am convinced that Mr. Fielding and Mr. Paterson did their very best on my behalf, but in this regard I have had to share the same fate as each of my colleagues, all of whom have had to face in the agreement as a whole some feature which adversely affects an intimate friend. Mr. Fielding himself gets his strength and support in large part from the coal mines of Nova Scotia. So far as he owes anything to friends he owes more to this industry which means so much for Nova Scotia. By the reduction in coal duties this industry and his province alone will be adversely affected, and that on a very considerable scale, and yet to carry the agreement through with a view to the general good he has had to make what I think in some ways has been for him the most serious sacrifice he has ever been called upon to face.

Not less strong than your support of the Liberal Party and myself is the friendship, and I may say, affection, which I have for yourself, and this, I think, is well known. You may count upon both being exercised on your behalf to the full extent of my influence. It is, of course, impossible to say as yet, whether the agreement will carry. Unless the United States Congress passes the legislation, the present arrangement, of course, will not come to anything, and there are many who entertain grave doubts as to whether the proposed measure will ever pass the Senate of the United States. Mr. Taft believes that he can succeed in getting the agreement through, but it affects so considerably many of the industries of the United States and with so much to our advantage and their disadvantage, that it is certain to mean a very stiff fight if the effort is to be crowned by success. It may be, therefore, that while the measures are being considered, some interest on the other side of the line will desire a modification. I have already asked, if any such should be considered that the clock industry be the first to be set off against it, and I shall watch for chances between now and the time matters are finally terminated one way or the other, to keep matters, so far as your industry is concerned where they are at present. I am glad you have written me as you have, because your letter will be a further help to me in this connection.