

done. Let me say that I believe that he was absolutely honest in his efforts. I also believe that many members of the Government would not have been agreeable to sending him down if they had thought for one moment that he had one chance in a hundred of succeeding. Further than that, I will say, knowing as I do nearly all the members of the Government, that I believe many of them were agreeable to the Finance Minister going down and thinking that they were taking the very best method of putting a stop to getting reciprocity in the near future in any shape or form. Why do I take that view? Let us look for a moment at the condition of things in the United States in the last two years. In 1920 there was a presidential election on. At that time the Democratic party under President Wilson was in power. They are the low tariff party in the United States. Conditions had got very bad, more especially in the Western States. The farmers of the Western States were in exactly the same position as our farmers in Western Canada. They had had a good crop and prices had gone up; they were getting big prices for their products. But everything the farmer purchased that went into the production of his crops had increased in a like or even greater proportion. In the fall of 1920 the farmers of the Western States, like our own, had grown a very expensive crop. Then prices suddenly fell and there was a howl set up by the American western farmers that they wanted protection from the competition of Canadian products. The Republicans, like any other party, promised everything, from the Kingdom of Heaven downwards, to the American farmer. Therefore, after they were swept into power by a tremendous wave, when Congress met, in order to implement their promises they passed the Fordney Bill as a temporary Bill, in which they practically shut out Canadian farm products. Any honourable gentleman, particularly those of the West or of Ontario, know what effect that had on our cattle growers and our grain growers. Our cattle were simply practically shut out of the American market, which was our best market for cattle. The year before we had exported into the United States some 350,000 head of cattle. Just imagine the condition when that market was suddenly closed against us. The result was that cattle in the West were practically valueless; you could not get a market for them; and many of the cattle growers have become practically bankrupt

through the operation of the Fordney Bill. At first, the Fordney Bill was intended to be only temporary; but the Republican Government immediately set about making a new permanent tariff. What has been the result? That tariff has been incubating for about a year. It has not been passed yet—why? Because a very large section of the Republican party begin to see daylight ahead. They begin to see what is going to happen. They see that if Canada's farm products are shut out, we are not going to buy so much in their country. Their legislation is not against Canada alone: it is against the world; but it so happens that Canada is the only place that it affects, and the people of the United States, especially the manufacturers, are beginning to realize that if we are not allowed to sell in that country we shall buy less there. Our own statistics prove that. They realize that unless we can get an open market for our products their exports are going to be very much curtailed. During the past calendar year the exports of American manufactures to England, Japan, and Canada—those three countries alone—were reduced from the previous year by \$1,500,000,000, or about \$5,000,000 a day for every working day of the year. Is it any wonder that they are beginning to hesitate as to what they shall do with their permanent tariff? It was at one time supposed that the permanent tariff would largely reduce the Fordney tariff, and before that measure becomes law we find our Government going to the United States to open up the question of a reciprocity agreement. I believe, honourable gentlemen, it would have been far better to have let that alone for a year. Why? Because elections for the House of Representatives and for the Senate will take place in a number of States this year. You are now putting them up in arms. You are putting it into their power to say: "Canada is after reciprocity again; we have to guard against that—to keep our promises to the Western American farmers; therefore this permanent tariff must be a strong tariff against imports of Canadian farm products." So, in my judgment, honourable gentlemen, it would have been better to have waited a while until matters have settled.

But I know perfectly well that many members of the Government of the day are no more in favour of reciprocity with the United States now than they were in 1911. We shall, I think, get reciprocity with the United States—of a kind. It will be some