

his views, but we have the views of a member of his family in pretty close touch with him. I find in the Toronto 'Globe' of yesterday, a letter written, not by Hon. Edward Blake, but by his brother, the distinguished ex-vice-chancellor of Ontario, Hon. S. H. Blake. After some general observations favourable to this project, Mr. Blake winds up with these remarks, which I commend to hon. gentlemen opposite:

It is always very repulsive to me to find that so many men are now beginning to place the integrity of the British Empire upon the low platform of tariff, trade relations, preference, &c., as if some little change in duty or some little rearrangement of tariff considered to be necessary in the interest of either England or Canada should sever the ties of loyalty and degrade us to the low level of persons who desire to continue the union only because of some material advantage that may arise.

In the absence of any testimonial from Hon. Edward Blake, I present to my hon. friends opposite the opinion of his distinguished brother.

Mr. HUGHES. What about Mr. Lash?

Mr. FIELDING. Mr. Lash is a very excellent citizen. I have no doubt that if I wanted an opinion on any legal matter I could go with confidence to Mr. Lash. But I do not know that he is infallible. A good many men have spoken on this matter whose opinion would be highly respected on some things, but who are no better qualified to speak on this subject than the average man.

But let me give one thought in conclusion—and I have already spoken too long. I am going to assume, for the sake of argument, that every human being in the United States favours the annexation of Canada. Why should not they? Canada is like a beautiful woman who expects to be courted and admired. Why, Sir, she feels offended if she is ignored or treated with indifference.

Mr. HUGHES. But she does not want to be tied up to one fellow alone.

Mr. FIELDING. She is not going to be tied up at all. But I may mention to my hon. friend (Mr. Hughes) that a decent woman who is to be tied up, is well content to be tied up to one man. But I say, Sir, that Canada has reached a position which has given her a standing in the eyes of the world, of which we should be proud. And if the United States, which has too often treated us with indifference and almost contempt, has come to a different view, if the people of the United States have made up their mind that Canada is worth cultivating, whether in the form of better trade relations or in any other form, why should we complain of that?

But, if one must speak seriously, I do not believe that one responsible man—I should not say that, I suppose, for Mr. Champ Clark, who is to be the next Speaker of the House of Representatives is certainly a responsible man; it is said that his remarks were humorous; all I can say is it is a dangerous kind of humour;—with the possible exception of Mr. Clark, I do not believe there is a man in the United States to-day holding a responsible position in the front rank of either party who would seriously desire the annexation of Canada to the United States.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. FIELDING. No, I do not believe it. The United States have all the territory they can manage to-day. They have all the problems of government that it is well for a nation to have. My opinion is that the best and most thoughtful men of the United States have no serious desire to annex Canada, but, if they had, I am not going to quarrel with them for it. Again, I say, it is a tribute they pay, a tribute of honour and admiration to a country which at one time they treated with indifference. But it takes two to make a bargain. And although hon. gentlemen opposite, unwisely, I think, and unjustly too, have tried to convey the impression that there is some portion of the people of Canada who are not loyal to the institutions of our country and to the empire, I am ready to believe that they have done it for party purposes. I believe that every man of them, and every man on this side, and every citizen of this Dominion is bound to maintain the position of Canada as a portion of the British Empire. But, since my hon. friends opposite think that, in view of their record, it is necessary to make a declaration to that effect, I am going to help them to make it.

Mr. E. B. DEVLIN (Wright). I do not rise to debate the question of reciprocity for, upon another occasion, when this House is in Committee of Ways and Means, I expect to have an opportunity to say a few words upon that subject. I simply wish to treat, in a good natured way, some of the remarks of my hon. friend from South York (Mr. Maclean). If I am using a parliamentary expression, I will say that I presume that when the hon. gentleman made his appeal to the province of Quebec, more particularly in connection with the question of annexation, he was speaking in a Pickwickian sense; otherwise I would consider his appeal as most unjust—I must not say, mean, for that would not be parliamentary—and calculated to attract, presumably for himself, certain cheap notoriety in a section of the press. As to the sentiment of the province of Quebec, I am not here to speak. But I do know this, and I wish to lay stress upon it and to