

continent, in a commercial and social union to the great advantage of both. What says Mr. Hill:

I want to say to you that we cannot afford to let this opportunity pass. It is said that 'opportunity calls once at every man's door,' but that if you leave the door open it will come again. Let me say to you that the conditions in the British Empire are such that if we let it pass it will never come again. If we neglect the opportunity that is now manifesting itself, if that is refused, it is almost a certainty that imperial federation will follow, and if it does, where is your independence, where is your market?

What says Senator Beveridge? What says Governor Foss? What say the newspapers from one end of the country to the other? What is the allusion, what is the call to the United States for viewing this question not simply from the low business standpoint, but from far-sighted reasons of statesmanship and National Policy? What does it mean? It means that the old objective is there, it means that the methods have changed, they propose to have the Trojan horse with its big gifts introduced into the fortress. 'I fear the Greeks when they are bearing gifts.'

I could go on quoting from one and another; these are but samples of what I could quote, and therefore, are indicative of the general trend in the United States. All these methods of the past we have withstood and met, and we are on terms of absolute good friendship with the United States. I want to repeat what I said before, that to-day they have more respect for Canada, and more admiration for our enterprise and our work, than at any other period in the history of these two countries; and we on this side have just as high an appreciation of them as they on their side have of us. There is absolutely to-day no cause of dissatisfaction or ill will between us and the United States. But it does not follow that, because you are friendly with your neighbor and are doing each other good turns, you should give him half or three-quarters of your house and install him in it. Neither does it follow that because we want to be on good terms with the United States we are to hand over the rich possessions we have hewn out and made for ourselves, and go into this unfair partnership with them. Nor does it agree with our policy, our instincts and our ideals. It was the conquest of Canada aimed at in 1775; it was the conquest of Canada aimed at in the years around 1812, and since; it was the conquest of Canada and its incorporation with the United States aimed at by the methods I have spoken of in respect to our trade and fisheries; and the dominant spirit in the United States that is pushing reciprocity through to a successful enactment is not economic, it is political.

It is still the conquest of Canada. But it is conquest of Canada by peaceful means and large gifts, to bring about the time when, from the frozen north to the Mexican gulf, there shall be but one power predominant and dominant, and that shall be the United States of America, and when British and European influence shall be abandoned forever on this North American continent.

This being the ideal of the United States, let me say in conclusion—and I know we will all heave a sigh of relief, and myself as sincerely as my hon. friends opposite—let me say a few words on the national aspect of this question, and just now, by the national aspect, I mean the Canadian aspect. I yield to none in my devotion to the British flag and empire; but it is not necessary, in order to view the national interest properly in connection with this subject, to go outside the bounds of Canada itself, our own country, our own nation within the empire. Patriotism is to the soul and conscience of a nation what religion is to the soul and conscience of the man. Religion soothes, it gives it peace, assures security, it gives the conscience, and rounds out a man for better and nobler work. Patriotism does the same for a country. It purifies the soul of a nation, it reinforces the conscience of the nation. And I tell you, Sir, that a nation has a soul and has a conscience; and when that soul is not pure, and warns, and strong, and that conscience reinforced and upright, an unbending patriotism cannot exist within it, and the nation is robbed of one of its strongest bulwarks. So I make no excuse in appealing to the patriotic feeling of Canada in a discussion of this subject, limiting it just for the present to our own Dominion of Canada. Fifty years ago we were pursuing the quest of reciprocity, at first a reality, later a phantom. In 1889, in 1891, and in 1897 we abandoned the quest, the Liberal-Conservative party first, the Liberal party afterwards; and from 1890 and 1897 the quest was absolutely abandoned in this country from one end of it to the other. If we had abandoned the quest of reciprocity 25 years before we did, we would have been 25 years further advanced on the road of progress. Uncertain and doubtful, now hoping and now despairing, with a narrow horizon, capital and enterprise alike timid, what could we do in the way of settled purpose and in the way of settled endeavor and enterprise? No fixed purpose, no ideal, and a country that has no fixed political purpose and no fixed political ideal, but has a wobbling and uncertain gait, it cannot make progress forward.

Then, Sir, we suffered what seemed a stroke of adversity, but what, under God's Providence, was the best kink that Canada ever had administered, that was the abrogation of the treaty of 1854 in 1866. Then our ideal began slowly to evolve, then gradually a purpose was developed,