

war; but I have always thought that the American people might perhaps have borne in mind the fact that some 40,000 or 50,000 Canadians had fought in the United States under the United States flag in the civil war from 1860 to 1863 for the maintenance of the union. There were of course, some annoying instances; there was perhaps some lack of good feeling, but there had also been a good deal of friction about duties upon articles which were not embraced in the Reciprocity Treaty of 1861, and possibly that was one of the causes which led to the denunciation of that treaty in 1866. The United States did not have very much regard for the Canadian market in those days. They were a great and powerful and a rapidly growing nation, and it was said in 1851, and repeated in 1866 and afterwards, that the ultimate destiny of this country was not only commercial but political union with the United States, and there were no doubt those in the United States who thought that the denunciation of this treaty of 1860 would oblige Canada to seek for commercial or political union with the United States.

Let us for one moment, if we can, see why it is that the great nation to the south, having refused our suggestions of reciprocity for 25 or 30 years, have come to the conclusion that at present reciprocal trade with Canada is desirable. Let us consider for a moment on what that present desire is based. In the first place let me say, lest I should be misunderstood, that no one realizes more than I the absolute importance of our having the best and most friendly relations with that great nation, whose boundary adjoins ours for nearly 4,000 miles. That is eminently desirable, and no one will work or co-operate for that purpose more thoroughly and sincerely than I; but the United States have framed their policy at all times in their own interests, and the people and the statesmen of that country are too broad-minded and generous to think for one moment of denying to this country the equal right of framing its fiscal policy as they seem best according to the views of those whose duty it is to frame that policy. I would say this further. I would say that the United States, in many respects, give us a lesson which we would do well to consider and often to follow in this policy for the conservation of their natural resources, in the earnest attempts by their public men and men of great eminence, not in public life, to elevate the standard and ideals of public life in that

country and make people more thoroughly cognizant of their responsibility as citizens of one of the greatest countries in the world. In these respects, as well as in others, I believe we might well take an example and a lesson from the people of the United States to-day. But on what is the present desire of the United States for reciprocal relations founded? We know that fiscal changes in that country are impending. They have had an enormously high tariff as compared with ours. Their tariff is about double what ours has been during the past 25 or 30 years, and during that period the United States have been the most wonderful examples the world has ever known both of protection and free trade. They have a great tariff wall around their country and free trade among 90,000,000 of people within their own borders. They are thus the most remarkable example of protection on the one hand and of absolute unrestricted free trade on the other. And they have made marvellous progress in many respects. The United States to-day is the greatest manufacturing country in the world. It is probably the greatest agricultural country. I do not know what the figures are to-day, but I remember that some eight years ago I examined the statistics of the United States with regard to their manufacturing industries, and I found that the total manufacturing product in that country amounted to \$3,000,000,000, and that of that amount they exported only 3 1/2 per cent, so that out of that enormous manufacturing product of \$3,000,000,000 they consumed nearly 97 per cent within their own territory. May we not, therefore find in the impending fiscal changes in that country one reason why its government is disposed to make a treaty of reciprocity with Canada?

The high cost of living in the United States is put forward by the President in his message to Congress. The exhaustion of the natural resources of the United States is also dwelt upon by the President over and over again in his message to Congress, and I shall trespass for a moment on the patience of the House to quote four or five very strong utterances in that regard which may be found in his message. At page 5 of his message, Mr. Tait said:

If we can enlarge our supply of natural resources and especially of food products and the necessities of life without substantial injury to any of our producing and manufacturing classes, we should take steps to do so now.