

knowledge of the question. Laurier is the greatest statesman the Dominion has produced, and during his fifteen years' office, growth and prosperity has resulted. Everything which adds to the wealth and prosperity of Canada makes a better market for England and this trade will increase in volume and the Canadian trade in British markets will not only be maintained, but increased."

The truth is that the Conservative attitude was purely political and without regard to the best interests of the country. If the Liberals had told Parliament that they had been offered, and refused, the trade arrangement which they consummated with the United States, a howl would have gone up from the Conservatives that would have raised the roof of Parliament. Just as in 1874, when Sir Charles Tupper was prepared with a free trade speech if the Liberal Finance Minister had acceded to the pressure to increase the tariff, so the Tories of 1911 opposed the Reciprocity Pact more out of a desire to defeat the Liberals than to serve their country.