

9. Because the preservation of Canadian autonomy and Canadian nationality would in course of time be made enormously more difficult.

In taking the stand set out in this manifesto the signers felt that the questions involved were above and beyond party questions, and called for open and fearless opposition to the Government, by whose act the interests of Canada and Canadian nationality were threatened, and who by entering into the agreement had substantially reversed the policy which had brought Canada to its enviable position, and which had been the means of keeping the Liberal party in power for so many years. The signers felt that the act of the Government had absolved those of their supporters who disapproved of the agreement from further supporting them, and that those who disapproved were in duty to Canada and in self-respect called on to act in accordance with their views irrespective of previous party affiliations. Seven months have since elapsed, and the questions have been debated in and out of Parliament. The opposition to the agreement has been consistent throughout and the evidence and arguments advanced have convinced thousands of former Government supporters that for the reasons stated the reciprocity agreement should not be ratified. No attempt has been made by the Government to show that they had received from the people of Canada any mandate or authority to negotiate with respect to any reciprocity agreement with the United States, except the unfounded assertion that for the last forty years all parties have wanted it. The evidence drawn from the Premier's own public statements and from the solemn acts of the Government and Parliament conclusively disprove the assertion. It has not been contended by the Government that the present prosperity of Canada was not the result of the policy which has been pursued in the development of her trade and natural resources, and that further development along the lines of east and west transportation and of trade between the various parts of Canada with each other, and between Canada and the various parts of the Empire, would not be seriously checked and interfered with. On the contrary, a Government candidate now seeking election has frankly and publicly confessed that reciprocity would develop south and north trade instead.

No real answer has been made by the Government to the evidences furnished by the utterances of public men and the press of the United States that the result of this reciprocity agreement would ultimately be political union or annexation. An attempt was once made to treat the speech of Mr. Champ Clark in this respect as a joke, but the evidence of his seriousness and of the seriousness of the dozens of other utterances of the same kind by men and newspapers was too overwhelming to controvert, and the attempt was abandoned. The