

took the habit for a gift of divine providence. They remind me of a story of a Scotch preacher named Harry Lauder. Under the strain of much work, it is said his wife cautioned him against too much spirituous consolation. She said "You know, Harry, I am afraid ye'll get the whiskey habit." "Habit?" said Harry, "it's no a habit, it's a gift."

Sir Wilfrid tried one of the traditional pilgrimages, none of which produced more than a cup of cold water and a few kind words. Having been repulsed, and feeling in his bones that Canada's day of prosperity would come with the dawn of the twentieth century, Sir Wilfrid announced his abandonment of the idea of Commercial Justification by Faith in the United States. Some of our Liberal brethren do not like to hear about this aspect of reciprocity, and if there are any present who doubt that the Prime Minister definitely abandoned reciprocity, let me read for their instruction a few verses from the gospel according to St. Wilfrid.

In 1899, the year after the last abortive attempt to secure reciprocity, he said:

"I am not making too wide a statement when I say that the general feeling in Canada is not in favor of reciprocity. There was a time when the market of the great cities of the Union was the only market we had, but these days are past and over now. We are not dependent on the American market now."

In 1901, at a banquet in Montreal, Sir Wilfrid Laurier declared:

"Since the abolition of the Reciprocity Treaty in 1866, we have sent delegation after delegation to Washington to obtain Reciprocity. We are not sending any more delegations. But I rather expect that there will be delegations coming from Washington to Ottawa for reciprocity. Having learned from our friends in the south how to receive such a delegation, we shall receive them in the proper manner—with every possible politeness."

In 1903, in proposing the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway legislation, the Prime Minister was uncompromising:

"I have found, in the short experience during which it has been my privilege and my fortune to be placed at the head of affairs, by the will of the Canadian people, that the best and most effective way to maintain friendship with our American neighbors is to be absolutely independent of them."

Then the Prime Minister spoke to the Imperial Conference in 1907. Remember the whole world is at the key-hole of the Imperial Conference, because it is there that the future of the Empire is most instructively fore-shadowed. Listen to Sir Wilfrid again:

"If we were to follow the laws of nature and geography between Canada and the United States, the whole trade would