

But I spoke of our hazardous experiment in order to recall for a moment our object in joining these provinces in one confederation. We had a very clear and definite object. We believed that it would increase our chance, none too great as it was, of individual prosperity, and we believed that we could build up in time a great nation. A nation, of course, means a people who have decided to do certain things together. It involved our having a conception of our future in many directions, towards which ideals we would work together. To-night it is proper only to consider our conception of our *industrial* future. Regarding this there were years spent in discussion, but, I think, it will be fair to say that in the end we, as a whole, concluded that we desired to build up an industrial civilization which should eventually be as comprehensive as that of the United States, and that this industrial civilization should be as completely independent of influence by the United States as possible. With one hundred million on one side of the line, and seven million on the other, the situation must always be peculiarly difficult; and tariffs, and Canadian regulations looking to the proper use, and also of the conservation of our natural resources, must often be keenly discussed.

It is well always to remember that because of this conception of our future, and because, after all, we have very few people who do not, at the bottom, care more for Canada than for their own pockets, we were able to withstand those attacks upon our national existence made by the McKinley and Dingley Tariffs.