

interfere in any way with the advantageous conditions we have in the British market at the present time. We cannot forget the events of the past. We had a reciprocity treaty with the United States from 1854 to 1856. Our neighbours abrogated that treaty. We do not know, if we should abandon our desirable position in the British market in order to increase our trade with our neighbour across the border, how soon they might come to the same conclusion they reached in 1866 and give notice to abrogate any treaty we might enter into, and we would be back again to where we were 40 years ago. We would have to do all the work again that the present government has done in perfecting our arrangements in the English market and in getting us the desirable conditions that now exist. I think we had better keep on the even tenor of our way, and we cannot do that unless we meet our neighbours along the same lines as they meet us. I do not want the high protective tariff they have in the United States. They have injured their own people by that tariff, but I do want to see a tariff in Canada so adjusted that it will encourage every industry the raw material of which is found here and the conditions for prosecuting it are favourable. I want to see every such industry get a fair opportunity of succeeding. It should be protected against competition that would ruin it. We will never grow to be a country unless we do that. The difference between the tariff in force to-day and the tariff in force in 1896 is simply this: the latter was a tariff that aimed first at protecting every manufacturing institution; the question of revenue was a secondary consideration. The tariff that is in force to-day, and under which we have made such admirable progress, is aimed at raising a revenue sufficient to meet the demands upon the Dominion treasury, and so adjust it as to give incidental advantage to industries that we believe should exist and prosper in Canada. We do not want to go back to the condition of things we had under the old tariff. To illustrate how it was framed, protection was given to the manufacture of stoneware and crockery of all kinds in this country. We had an establishment down on the banks of the Richelieu where they undertook to manufacture ordinary stoneware. Where did they get

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the sand? They had to bring it from the United States. Where did they get the clay? They had to bring it from the United States. We had nothing in Canada but the water and a heavy duty was imposed on the people of this country in order to establish an industry of that kind. That is carrying protection to an excess altogether. We do not want that kind of protection, but we do want a protection that will enable us to promote industries which will develop and use the raw material in the country, where we have reason to believe that the attempt will be successful. We can come together Grits or Tories as loyal Canadians and support a tariff that will bring about such a result, and I believe it will bring it. We are driven by necessity to do it. We cannot afford to allow our neighbours to slaughter their products in our market and ruin our whole industrial development. No matter how desirable it might be to cheapen the ordinary articles of every-day life for our consumers in Canada, it would not be wise to make Canada a slaughter market. I know our friends in the west are anxious to get their supplies at the lowest possible prices, but while that is desirable, we must look after those institutions that we would like to see prosperous. I am glad to say most of our institutions are prospering at the present time, though the woollen factories complain of being injured under the British preference. I hope some change will be made to give these people an opportunity of improving their condition.

A good deal has been said about our election law. We had quite a tirade or criticism last night from the leader of the opposition, regarding the wickedness of the Reform party, and the switching of ballots and all that kind of thing. I frankly admit that such evils should be abolished. I deplore the fact that switching ballots and corrupt practices at elections were ever introduced in Canada, but in looking over the field we have crossed—and a good many of us had extended political experience—we cannot help remembering what has taken place in the past. The Reform party was subjected to ballot switching, and ballot stuffing for years and years before we knew that such an abominable, wicked system was in practice at all. We could