

Canada feels we must wake up and be independent of these people; that we can have nothing to do with them while they hold their present views; that we will not submit to anything like extortion or wrong at the hands of our neighbours; that we have offered them bread and they gave us a stone; and that we should now take our own course and try the thing out to the end. [Cheers.] And what has been the effect in the United States? I would ask any reflecting man what was the tone of the American people towards us two or three months ago? You could not then find one newspaper that would say a single word in favour of Reciprocal Trade. Now, however, many of the leading papers of the United States are saying that their people were wrong, and that our people were right; and is it nothing to have gained that position? Is it nothing to have gained the unanimous support of our own people, and to have induced probably the one half of the American people to avow that their rulers ought to have made an arrangement with us? Our policy, then, though it may not have accomplished all we could have desired, has yet accomplished much. [Loud applause.] The United States markets, Mr. Chairman, will be closed against us on the 17th of March. The people there will soon feel, we hope, that the course they are taking is an erroneous one, which will entail additional burdens upon themselves, and I believe it will not be long before different counsels will prevail, but we cannot hinge the policy of this country upon any such contingency as that. It is necessary for the Government to consider now, and it will be necessary for Parliament to consider soon in the most earnest way how they will deal with the commercial future of Canada, and what its Trade policy shall be. [Cheers.] It is perfectly clear that the Union with the Lower Provinces must speedily be carried out. We must complete our communications with them, and have our mutual commerce as free as possible. The Government have sent a commission to the West Indies and Brazil to forestall the action of the American Government. It is the intention of this Government to give effect to the recommendations of the Commission whenever they have made their report to Parliament. With regard to the markets of England and France, the two great consuming countries of Europe, it can scarcely be imagined that they can be made more free than they now are. But it is the duty of the Government to endeavour to make such arrangements with the Colonies of these Powers, and with Spain and her colony Cuba, as will secure the reciprocal interchange of some of their products and ours. [Hear, hear.] It is plain that the Government will have to propose to Parliament a complete revision of our system of taxation: for the burdens of the people will have to be readjusted to stimulate the great agricultural interest of the Province, and to make Canada at once the cheapest country to live in, and the most attractive country in the world for the labor and capital of foreign lands. [Hear, hear.] Our policy must be one of development and not of stoppage—development not of Canada alone, but of all the vast territory stretching from Newfoundland on the one hand to the Pacific on the other. We may have to postpone for a time the enlargement of the canals that has been spoken of for several years, because we have not yet the assurance that the American trade will be permitted to use them, but this will leave us all the more means for open-