

It is an admission that at the end of the war will be a cause of great alarm to the country. It has been said that it must be opened for arbitration at the same time that the British and Canadian roads

are to be given up to the Americans. It has been said that the opening of the roads after a long period of negotiations will result in a rapid growth of trade, but that the Canadian roads are likely to be closed by the American Government, which will be in a position to interfere with them, which would be disastrous to our trade with the United States.

More than a week ago today, I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. W. P. Ross, of Montreal, who asked what would prevent us from then having what he called a great emergency, a great national emergency, would occur. He said, "Well, even the women throw their jewels and clothes into the common fund for the protection of the country." But we are told here by Canadian Tories that if an emergency came on, there seems to be no doubt that these people would be liable to suffer, the moral bankruptcy between the people and their leaders.

Are the Tories of fifty years ago were not of similar mind? Is not the treaty which was negotiated by Lord Elgin with Francis Hinckley, the Prime Minister, reduced to imminent prosperity? Ten years afterwards the treaty was repeated with a high protective tariff instituted for it. At that time did Canadian fathers Did they hesitate? Were they forced into closer relations with the United States? Did they make a policy in political union? No, in the face of that nation they conceived and organized the Canadian confederation.

The treaty of 1850 was negotiated by Lord Elgin whom we have said, he had as his first Minister Francis Hinckley. It was ratified in 1851 by the first Liberal-Conservative administration that we had. That same nation was presided over by that sturdy old heart Tory, Sir Allan Macnab, and one of its members was the young Mr. John A. Macdonald. Did Sir Allan Macnab, or did John A. Macdonald tell Sir John to say to Lord Elgin that they would not violate the stipulations of the treaty, for fear that, if it were afterwards abolished, the Canadian people would be forced into closer relations with the United States? On the contrary, their advice to Lord Elgin was to ratify the treaty. It never occurred to them that, even if the treaty could be repealed, or it was repudiated ten years later, there would be a single Canadian who would be led by the direction of trade to seek to change his country's allegiance. But again what would have been the catalogue between Lord Elgin and his advisers, if instead of being advised by such men

as Mr. John Macnab and John A. Macdonald, he had been advised by the advocates of the Free Trade Party, and all the free traders, who said, "We will have a great national emergency, but you will not be able to meet it." And Elgin would say, "Well, let this treaty be a national emergency to the people. It will not be a national emergency, but there is only one thing to do—let us keep the treaty. The cost of carrying out the treaty may be increased and replaced by a higher tariff, but you can't expect that our government will be responsible for such a thing, though it is not the responsibility of the Americans."

And so this is the case now. If we are to do our duty, we should be like Elgin, and not follow the example of those who, in the situation we are called to face, are for Justice, starting the Free Trade Association, suspending the tariff, and, instead of following what is to follow the application of a free trade principle, but of a tariff policy, it seems to me there are no better grounds for that than now, entering upon a new era in our relations with our neighbours, but we are already whitening on the horizon the dawn of a brighter day. One thing is certain and nothing cannot be denied—that the relations which have existed between the two countries for the last fifty years, especially for the last twenty years, still more for the last twelve years, and which also came to a crisis a year ago—the relations have been a blot on the civilization of the two countries. We have come down practically to a position of no mutual interest between the two countries, so far no regulation could bring this about. Another thing cannot be denied—that the man who raised the Conservative party to the highest pitch of power and influence, the man whose name is still revered, though his example is not followed, Sir John A. Macdonald, deplored and dreaded that situation. He did all that man could do to change it and improve it. To that end he made many overtures and to that end he made his last appeal to the Canadian people.

One other thing cannot be denied—that at this moment amongst the thoughtful men of the American union the feeling is growing up that the policy which they have pursued towards us for the last fifty years has been wrong, that it has been injurious to themselves as well as to us, that it is selfish and narrow, and they are prepared to take their steps and to enter with us into a mutually profitable commercial intercourse. Now, when we reach that stage, it is inconceivable that we in Canada should be told that this retrograde policy, long followed by the United States, and which they are now on the eve of abandoning, should become the Canadian policy, and that we should follow a policy of non-coop-