

While James J. Hill, the railroad magnate, rejoiced that:

Reciprocity will stop the union of the British empire.

From the date of President Cleveland's "Parting of the Ways" speech, the views of the Canadian people became more definitely crystallized, and by reason of the issue which the leading United States politicians had then raised, the decision of the people of Canada became inevitable. Later, under the Underwood tariff, which came into force in October, 1913, and continued during the period of the war, exports from Canada to the United States increased considerably; but the United States emergency tariff of May, 1921, followed by the Fordney-McCumber tariff of September, 1922, reduced our exports of farm products by more than one-half. The government of the present Prime Minister, which had assumed office in December, 1921, were unable to do anything to overcome these disadvantages, and they frankly confessed their inability.

In the budget debate of 1923, the late Hon. W. S. Fielding, then finance minister in the cabinet of the right hon. gentleman opposite said:

The congress of the United States, in the exercise of its undoubted right, has established what is commonly called the Fordney-McCumber tariff, which is largely a high tariff, and which we realize operates to the disadvantage of Canada. Any desire that we may have towards modification of our tariff is naturally held in check by the high tariff of the United States.

And he added that when the opportunity offered—

—the Liberal party stands for reciprocity with the United States when we can get a fair and reasonable agreement.

That has always been and is now the attitude of the Conservative party in Canada. Towards the close of the debate, on May 23, 1923, the right hon. gentleman opposite, who is now Prime Minister, used these words:

What is the position with regard to the United States? Since the Liberal convention was held, there has been enacted by the United States a much higher tariff than ever before existed between Canada and the United States. The Fordney-McCumber tariff, so-called, to-day is operating to the disadvantage of Canada. Is there any member of this house who will stand up in his place and say: Notwithstanding that obvious fact we think we should throw down our bars against the United States and give them an opportunity to come in here and affect our industries in a manner even more seriously than they have already been affected?

The obvious answer was "no"! But the Prime Minister continued:

I think our American friends will come to see that if, as a result of their—and it is their own business, of course—if as a result of their

action Canada is going to seek and obtain new markets in which to buy and sell in Britain, new markets in France and new markets in Italy, is going to develop a reciprocal trade and effect agreements with Australia and possibly other countries as well, if they begin to see that in all these directions we are striking out into and creating new lines of commerce, and that we can manage very well as we are, I am inclined to think that that line of thought, quicker than anything else, will bring about the change which my hon. friends of the Progressive group opposite hope may come.

The present Prime Minister adhered to that attitude until June, 1930, when, while he was still in office, the United States congress enacted the Hawley-Smoot tariff, which practically prohibited Canada's exports of Canada's farm products to the United States, and brought this country to the verge of economic and financial ruin. That Hawley-Smoot tariff reduced in one year our total exports to the United States from \$515,000,000 in the fiscal year ending March 31, 1930, to \$350,000,000 in the following fiscal year. The United States congress enacted the Hawley-Smoot tariff against our products, although during the five fiscal years ending March 31, 1930, United States exports to Canada exceeded our domestic exports to the United States by \$1,296,000,000.

The right hon. gentleman spoke of what he alleged to be my strong dislike of the United States, particularly in trade matters. Let him now tell parliament of his consternation and of his personal opinion of the United States in respect of its treatment of Canada in trade matters when the Hawley-Smoot tariff was under consideration and when it was finally enacted early in 1930. Early in 1930 I made the strongest speech that ever I made in my life against the United States conduct of its trade policy with respect to Canada, and I made it at Washington at the invitation of the United States chambers of commerce before 1,500 to 2,000 representatives from every part of the United States; but before I made that address I regarded the time as so critical that I endeavoured to obtain from two persons very close to the government of the day an opinion as to whether I was using too strong language in making that speech. That was before I went to Washington, and I was assured at that time that at least I was not prejudicing in any way the relations which then existed between the government of that day and the government at Washington. In fact, I think I received official approval of the speech before it was uttered.

Obviously, when the Bennett government came into office—the government of which the leader of the official opposition (Mr. Manion) and I were members—something had