

or section would be more than offset by the injury to other classes and sections. We believed it to be essential to the continued national unity and development of Canada, that no trade relations with any country should be agreed to by Canada on any basis which would check the growth and development of trade between the various parts of Canada with each other, or between Canada and the various parts of the Empire, and we believed that the proposed agreement would seriously check the growth and development of this trade. We saw that, as a result of the proposed agreement, the freedom of action possessed by Canada with reference to her tariffs and channels of trade would be greatly curtailed, and that she would be hampered in developing her own resources in her own way and by her own people. We remembered the position of Canada after the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854, had been terminated and the high protective tariff had been established by the United States as against Canada, and we knew that a great disturbance of trade had taken place, and that many of our people had become almost hopeless for our future, and that a very decided feeling that no course was left but annexation with the United States had grown up in many minds. We remembered that at that time Canada was mainly peopled by native-born Canadians and other British subjects, to whom the prospect of annexation was most unwelcome; yet many saw no other remedy. We remembered that many hundreds of thousands of newcomers had settled in Canada since that time, and that they were coming in by the thousands, and that in a comparatively few years their numbers would be millions. We knew that a large percentage of these newcomers were foreigners, and a large percentage of them had come and would come from the United States. We remembered the attitude of the United States towards Canada in the past, and we knew that that country would consider her own interests and wishes first, last and always, and we felt that if the United States thought it would be in their interests, and would serve the object they have always had in view, to legislate so as to cause a disruption in our channels of trade, our people might then, with millions of newcomers, and foreigners, have to choose between submitting to this disruption or to some closer union with the United States. We felt sure that the first thing that would happen would be that the scope of the reciprocity agreement would have to be extended, so as to include manufactures and other things, and that after that it would be a mere question of time when political union would follow.

"During our discussions there were appearing almost daily in the United States press, speeches of their public men and letters and editorials in their newspapers, proving conclusively what we have always believed to be the fact, that the United States longs for Canada, and would go almost any