

Now these men would block the way to the re-union of two nations who never should have been separated. They attempt to stop our efforts to repair that stupendous folly. They complain that we, through Canada, are bringing the British Empire into more friendly relations with the United States, and that we are turning what in the eyes of British statesmen of the very highest rank fifty years ago was a menace and a danger, and the vulnerable part of the Empire, into a shield and buckler in case of need.

Sir, elsewhere I have shown what a federation of the two great English nations might mean, and I do not mean to dwell further on that subject now. But before I conclude, I desire to pay a well-deserved tribute to President Taft in this matter. His action, to my mind, has been wise and magnanimous. A smaller man might have stood on a point of etiquette. Mr. Taft saw what would be best for both countries and he did it. And surely it would be the height of ungracious folly on our part to refuse his overtures.

#### REASONS FOR RATIFICATION

And now, my friends, if you wish to benefit the people of Canada at large, vote for this reciprocity agreement! If you desire to extend the prosperity which you enjoy to all classes of the people, vote for this agreement! If you desire to restore the balance of trade which is now heavily against us, vote for this agreement! If you desire to do a real service for the Empire, a service more valuable than if you contributed twenty Dreadnoughts or 100,000 volunteers to strengthen her line of battle, you will do it more effectually by passing an agreement which will tend to promote good relations between the United States and Great Britain than by any other action you could take! If you wish to undo in part the great blunder committed by the majority of our people in 1878, when they were duped by a set of knavish politicians and greedy manufacturers into exchanging gold for brass, into giving up a wholesome revenue tariff for a bad copy of a worse Yankee original, and at the same time in dismissing the most faithful public servant Canada has ever had, then, sir, vote for this agreement!

#### ANOTHER LONG FORWARD STRIDE

Sir, there are many signs that the people of the United States are at last coming to their senses in this matter. I trust that the people of Canada will not lag behind them. British preference was one long stride on the upward road; this agreement will mark another, and let me add this one word further: Bear in mind that there is but one alternative for you, and that, so long as Canada remains a part of the British Empire, Canada's position geographically is such that she must be either a hostage or a link of union between Great Britain and the United States. I speak as great English statesmen on either side would speak were they here, as Grey or Asquith or Balfour would speak, when I tell you that as matters now stand in Europe the man of English birth and English lineage who endeavors to sow the seeds of discord or promote ill-feeling between England and the United States is of all living men the worst traitor to the British Empire and to the British race.