

They may be mistaken as to their ultimate destiny ; and they may over-estimate their ability to make the North American Continent the home of a great and independent Anglo-Saxon race ; but if their political relations are to be changed, it will come about as the natural sequence of events, and not purely as the result of an appeal to sordid or material considerations.

I can conceive of a policy of injustice to one of the Provinces being carried to an extent that might produce a movement in favor of the separation of that Province from the Confederation, with a view to union with the United States ; but, such an agitation, if based upon righteous and equitable grounds, would be almost certain of accomplishing the removal of the injustice, or the defeat of the party in power perpetrating it.

The feeling against Americans bred by your revolutionary war, which drove the Loyalists who founded Canada into exile ; by the war of 1812, and by subsequent misunderstandings, has largely passed away ; but the growth of good-will is a different thing from readiness for Political Union ; and I cannot help earnestly adjuring you, while we are discussing the advantages which I hope to lay clearly before you of another union, to dismiss from your minds the question of Political Union.

I refer to what is known as

COMMERCIAL UNION,

or Unrestricted Reciprocity, or Continental Free Trade, whichever of these terms may best convey the idea to your minds.

I would ask you to look at the map of North America, and say whether it is not in violation of all the indications of nature that artificial barriers to trade and commerce should be erected along an imaginary line stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, between peoples of common descent and common language, who are engaged in a common aim, namely, the making tributary to their material advancement the vast resources of nature, which, by the bounty of Providence, have been placed at their disposal.

Granted, for a moment, that there are two nations ; that each has its individual interest to serve, and its national requirements in the way of revenue to be provided, the policy that separates them at present does not exist mainly for revenue purposes, because your Treasury is an overflowing one ; and the policy of Canada was adopted as an alternative to one which, had you been willing, would have been infinitely preferred by their people.