

The resolutions submitted by the Board of Trade of Toronto were placed first upon the list of subjects to be discussed by the meeting in London, and the Toronto resolution suggesting a scheme of Preferential Trade between all parts of the Empire was, I think, considered the most important, and the most practical one offered to the Congress. While no immediate results were achieved, I believe that, as a consequence of the Congress, a substantial advance has been made towards that goal many of us hope to obtain—the closer and stronger binding together of the British nation and people through increased trade relations.

No one is more desirous than I am that we should live in the most friendly and cordial relations with our neighbors to the South, but at the same time I realize that we are two distinct and separate nations. We can never sink our individuality and our nationality. We should live in friendly rivalry, each trying to set a high standard of national and individual honor, and through such rivalry doing more to advance civilization than would be possible were this vast continent controlled by only one nation. Such a condition would, as a recent Hungarian writer put it, of necessity tend to "Chinify" a people living so entirely alone and without close rivalry.

I believe that our true interest is to cultivate the closest business relations with Great Britain and our sister colonies, and I for one would not hesitate to take the first step in this direction by admitting all goods coming from England or English Colonies on more favorable terms than goods coming from any other countries.

*Canada.*—The year 1896 will be memorable in Canada through the advent to power of the Reform Party after more than eighteen years in opposition. The dread of serious change in the fiscal policy of the country by the new Government has to some extent checked enterprise, but I am sure that the general belief is that there will be no damage done to our industries, and that changes in the tariff will be made only after most careful consideration, and with due regard for established industries. I believe that all parties recognize fully the great importance to this country of having a large and prosperous manufacturing community within itself.

Much is expected of the present Government. If they can advance the prosperity of the country, increase immigration, help to develop our industries and our national wealth, they will receive full credit and support from all true Canadians.

I believe that first and above all other immediate necessities for our development is the building of the Crow's Nest Pass Railway to let our merchants and manufacturers into our own mining district, East and West Kootenay, etc. British Columbia is to be in the immediate future one of the great mining regions of the world, and the Rainy River District in Ontario bids fair to even rival British Columbia. Miners are always good customers to merchants and manufacturers; as a rule they buy high-class goods at full prices and pay cash. At present the bulk of the miners' trade in British