

If properly applied, is bad under certain conditions. The fact is that in the present state of affairs we cannot possibly carry on the administration of this country without a certain measure of protection to our manufacturing institutions. If we are to grow to be a country at all we must certainly grow along four or five lines. Agriculture is the leading industry. Next to that comes mining which has been largely developed. Then comes lumbering, then manufacturing, and our fishing industries. All these different industries must be encouraged in their development if we are to grow and prosper as a country, and in order to do that we must see that they get a fair opportunity to make headway against the competition to which they would otherwise be subjected by the country to the south of us. The United States have intentionally struck at Canada in every move they have made with their tariff. They commenced years ago by passing the McKinley Bill. After it had been in force for some time it was modified after Cleveland came into power, and for a number of years Canadian commodities entering the United States were not subjected to the extreme restrictions that had been placed upon them before. The tariff was modified a little, not very much, but after all it was a move in the direction of giving us some access at least to their market. Afterwards, when the Cleveland administration was turned out of power and the Republicans succeeded to office, they not only re-enacted the McKinley Bill but made its provisions even more stringent under the Dingley Bill. The result was to shut everything out of their country that they could possibly keep out, down to an egg or a load of straw. They would not allow anything to enter their markets from Canada that they could produce themselves. I have no doubt the intention was in taking a course of that kind to eventually force Canada to whine for annexation—they expected that the people of this country would proceed to Washington and go down on their knees and beg for some concession whereby we might have an interchange of trade with them. Instead of doing that, the Canadian government took another course. They perfected and adopted a system of cold storage whereby the perishable products of this country could

be taken across the Atlantic in as perfect a condition as when they were shipped. They arranged for refrigerator cars which received the cheese and butter and other perishable commodities at the doors of the different factories, and conveyed them to the sea-board where they were transferred to the Atlantic steamers, and taken across the Atlantic and laid before the English consumer in as perfect a condition as when they left the place of production. By sending home commercial agents and endeavouring to create a demand on the part of the English consumer of the Canadian commodities, we have become independent altogether of the United States. We have now established a condition of things that is completely satisfactory to the producers of this country and we can afford to live independent of Uncle Sam. He can pass his Dingley Bills and his McKinley Bills, but we Canadians will forge ahead on our own course, and if our affairs are carefully and economically handled develop this Dominion into an important industrial country and eventually become very formidable competitors in many lines with our neighbours in the markets on the other side of the Atlantic. We do not find fault with the United States for having pursued the course which they thought best in their own interest. They had a perfect right to do so, but they are beginning now to talk of better trade relations with Canada. Some of the cities and towns and districts in the United States have commenced to move in that direction. They are becoming very large manufacturers and exporters of manufactured products and they want more extended markets. They want to reach desirable places of consumption, and no doubt Canada being one of their largest customers—and I am sorry to say it—they want to make better arrangements with us to extend their trade here. Well, if they want to do more trade with Canada they have the means in their own hands. Let them take down their tariff barrier and show a willingness to meet Canada on fair ground, but they must take that step before any improvement can be effected. Their tariff against us is something like 48½ while our tariff against them is only about 24.83. If they are disposed to reduce their tariff and meet us on a fair footing we might be disposed to consider the matter, but it would be folly for us to