

Sir, here is their chance if they wish to show independence of the United States. They have declared, some of them, that they wished that Canada should assert herself. Canada is asserting herself now. Let them stand by us, shoulder to shoulder, and help us to assert ourselves in the eyes of the world.

Mr. HUGHES. We do not know how long you will stick there.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. Does the hon. gentleman want to know how long we will sit here?

Mr. HUGHES. I asked, how long you would stick to your present policy.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. If my hon. friend (Mr. Hughes) had taken the trouble to examine the various speeches delivered in this House, he would find that this was the line formerly adopted by us, the Liberal party, and endorsed by us as a party, and voted for by us as a party, and voted down by hon. gentlemen opposite as a party, four, or five, or six years ago.

Now, Sir, let me ask one question which arises out of some of the remarks which I have addressed to the House. What is possible if this appeal of ours is responded to, as I have reason to believe it will? Well, many things are possible. There is not a little reason to believe that our example will be responded to in other quarters, and it may well be, that the United States, after a while, after second, sober, better thought, will consent to treat with us (and maybe with England) on better terms than they have heretofore treated. Sir, I do say that it is a great step, if our proposition is responded to, toward making the British Empire a reality as well as a name.

I say that it is a great step toward the federation of all the countries that owe allegiance to the British Crown, and I repeat, even at the risk of some misconstruction, that I am not without hope, that in its ultimate issue it may lead to a practical alliance between all the members of the English race. I will grant, that all this may not be in accordance with the declarations of certain of what I must call, extreme free traders; but even so high an authority as John Stuart Mill will be found declaring in many places throughout his works, and notably in his chapter on Navigation laws; that while it is true, all other things being equal, and were a condition of profound peace possible to be maintained, it might be desirable to utterly disregard the navigation laws; still, he for his part admitted, that there were other considerations for nations and statesmen than the mere bare consideration: where you can buy in the cheapest market and where you can sell in the dearest.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT.

And it may be that the English Government, rising to the magnitude of the position, rising to the weight of the Imperial cares which are flung upon them; it may be that they will respond in a manner yet unthought of or unknown, to the offer which we have lately made to them. Of one thing I am sure, and it is, Sir, that it is time that we should know exactly where we are and where we stand in this matter. As I have said, if British statesmen respond, it is well. If not, it is well too. We have shown our good-will towards them and we are not going to be frightened at the notion of a deluge of cheap German goods, and the direful necessity of compelling the Canadian consumer to pay a few cents less per yard or per pound for them than he does at present. For my part I think that better results are likely to follow. I grant it will require some time to develop these results. I am prepared to be misconstrued, I am prepared to be misrepresented—I have an abiding faith that hon. gentlemen opposite are equal to that task at any rate. I say, Sir, that these hon. gentlemen will find before they are much older, that we have struck a chord which will re-echo from one end of the country to the other. They will find, and others will find, that the Dominion of Canada is a factor to be recognized. We demand only what is just. We demand what is advantageous to the whole Empire, and I well believe that we will speedily obtain it. The proposal may possibly be modified in some respects, but in one shape or other, I think that you will find that that proposal will prevail. You will find, that that proposal will lead us further on, and with patience and statesmanship, if the people sustain us. I believe that great and important issues will be found to depend on our action of last week.

More, Sir, for my part, I think that it will be found that in the passage of that tariff, we have at one and the same time rung the death knell of protection and rung in the chance of federating the Empire on a solid and secure basis.

Lastly, Sir, and it is not the least important portion of our scheme, there is a reasonable chance of delivering Canada from the dead-alive condition in which Canada was till very lately. I can understand how a native of Ontario, or how a native of Quebec, could possibly, honestly advocate protection. But with the facts of the last census staring us in the face, I cannot understand how an inhabitant of the maritime provinces can possibly believe that there is any good value in protection for their people. What is the condition there? How do hon. gentlemen opposite account for the facts which were stated by my hon. friend (Mr. Fielding) the other night? What is the matter with the maritime provinces? Has the cradle ceased to rock in the regions by the sea; have the inhabitants attained