

Secretary of State for the United States, addressed to me on the same day.

Mr. J. D. REID. Is that written in Washington?

Mr. FIELDING. Yes, it is the only place I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Knox.

Mr. J. A. CURRIE. I wish to know if that contains all the correspondence with Mr. Knox, or is it only a partial return? Have you his letter asking for the negotiations?

Mr. FIELDING. This is the correspondence which took place in Washington on the conclusion of the negotiations.

Mr. J. A. CURRIE. It has nothing to do with the preliminary arrangements?

Mr. FIELDING. If I had waited to bring down all the preliminary correspondence, I might have had to keep my hon. friend until to-morrow, when I know he is burning with anxiety for information; so, I hastened from the train with all due speed in order that I might explode this upon him.

Mr. J. A. CURRIE. I have to apologize to the minister. I thought he had been here a couple of days looking over this correspondence.

Mr. FIELDING. I can assure my hon. friend that I was not. This letter is dated March 26, 1910, and is as follows:

Department of State, Washington,
March 26, 1910.

My dear Mr. Minister,—The adjustment of trade relations between Canada and the United States under existing tariff legislation, conducted through you at the instance of the British ambassador, and brought to a successful conclusion so largely through your own patient and earnest efforts, cannot fail to be a cause of mutual felicitation between the thoughtful people of both countries.

I am gratified that the recent tendencies towards a more perfect understanding between our respective countries, manifested so conspicuously in the maturing adjustments of boundary, boundary waters, fisheries and other long-standing differences, will not be affected by the irritations which would have resulted from our failure to agree upon the tariff question.

The agreement encourages the hope that the future trade relations of the two countries will become even more intimate and expanded, and will be regulated in a spirit of cordial reciprocity and interdependence. The common commerce now amounts to a vast sum, and its extraordinary growth is an index of the vast industry and commercial development among both peoples. It seems clear that this trade should be fostered so that the markets of each may be open to the other on the most advantageous terms possible for the interchange of commodities, and that such interchange undoubtedly can be promoted by the two governments without impairing their national economic policies.

Mr. FIELDING.

The President is confident that the policy of broader and closer commercial relations with Canada will receive the hearty support of the large majority of the people of the United States, and he has learned with much satisfaction of the existence of a similar sentiment in the Dominion. It may be added that the conditions of the present day, as contrasted with the traditions of the past, are bringing into clearer light the truth that not only mutual trade interests but ethical and social considerations of the highest moment reinforce this common sentiment.

Let me, then, take this opportunity to express, by his direction, the desire of the President that your government will find it convenient to take up with this government, at such time and in such manner as may be mutually satisfactory, the consideration of a readjustment of our trade relations upon the broader and more liberal lines which should obtain between countries so closely related geographically and racially, as indicated by the President in his recent public utterances.

I am, my dear Mr. Minister,
Very truly yours,
(Sgd.) P. C. KNOX.

The Honourable W. S. FIELDING,
Minister of Finance of the Dominion of Canada.

The other letter which concludes the correspondence is as follows:

Washington, March 26, 1910.

My dear Mr. Secretary,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of this date.

The Canadian government very heartily reciprocate your expressions as to the desirability of improving the commercial relations between the United States and Canada, and will gladly avail themselves of the invitation of the President to take up with your government, at such time and in such manner as may be mutually satisfactory, the consideration of a readjustment of these relations upon broad and liberal lines. The recent public utterances of the President in that direction have afforded much satisfaction to the Canadian people, who will receive with pleasure the formal confirmation of them, which is now conveyed to our government through you. I am confident that your assurances will be received also with much gratification by His Majesty's government in London, who will find in them further evidence of the desire of the government of the United States to maintain the most cordial relations with the British empire.

Allow me to express for myself as well as for my colleague, Mr. Graham, who has been associated with me in the conference at Washington, the most sincere thanks to the President and yourself for the cordiality of your welcome, and the very frank manner in which you have discussed the questions that have engaged our attention.

Yours faithfully,
(Sgd.) W. S. FIELDING.

The Honourable P. C. KNOX,
Secretary of State,
Washington.

I shall, Mr. Speaker, place upon the table for consideration in Committee of the