

manufactured products. Why should that barrier exist any more than one between Minnesota and Dakota?

To-day England is our best customer, and Canada is our third best customer. But our foreign trade wanes, and that of Canada grows. If we push Canada into England's arms, the trade arrangements between the two will tend more and more to shut us out.

How long will our trade with these two customers last if reciprocity fails? Our Canadian trade must fall off, as the east and west channels of her commerce are scoured by use. And Canada will more and more supply English needs in our stead.

Our neighbors are not to be blamed for cherishing these expectations. To me, it is astounding that some of our own people assert that the agreement is innocent of any possible effect on the fine quality of our national spirit.

Let it be understood that in seeking to defeat the government upon this agreement, I do not impugn the loyalty of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, or any of his colleagues, or supporters; but I do challenge their discernment.

President Taft is the father and mother of the agreement, and Mr. Fielding and Mr. Paterson are its wet nurses. They have apparently failed to realize the change that has come over the Canadian people in this century. Secure in their own sense of attachment to Canadian institutions, they have forgotten that the balance of power may any day transfer to those who are not natives of the country, who do not regard the eastern and western channels of commerce, as being the very arteries of our life-blood, and who will be quick to appreciate any sign of indifference to a continued working out of our destiny as it was prescribed by Sir Wilfrid himself.

I end as I began, on the note of the essential unity of the British-born and the native born in this great issue. To thousands of us, our choice of this wider, freer, more hopeful Britain, has been consecrated by the birth of our children on Canadian soil. Do you think a man in that situation is going to create division in his own household? He may not be able to say, "This is my own, my native land," but he can listen to his children say it, and he can do his part to preserve for those whom he has brought into the world, the blessed truth that as they grow older, and devote themselves to the noble prosperity of their native country, they may enjoy the rich happiness and the everlasting fruit of the closest, most enduring union with the land of their fathers.