

the United States? The Fordney Bill now before the Congress of the United States reflects the policy of that country on this question. Where is the Canadian agriculturist to find his market for his products? It is manifest he cannot get into the United States; the tearing down of our tariff walls would destroy the home market in Canada, because it is manifest that industrial life in Canada would cease to function immediately our tariff walls were removed, and the home market which he has to-day would disappear. His access to the European markets is handicapped by the inferiority of his position here in competing with 120 millions to the south of our boundary, and the like access which that 120 millions have to the markets of Europe. The Canadian farmer must necessarily, therefore, become a mere cipher as a producer in thus getting access to the markets of the world.

What about the manufacturer? If our tariff walls are practically removed, in accordance with the representations of these gentlemen, we are at once overwhelmed by the products of the 120 millions to the south of us. It cannot for a moment be seriously thought that our manufactures could be built up in the face of this competition whereby the United States would have access to our markets while we are precluded from having access to theirs.

Canada is comparatively a new country. We are only on the threshold of our development; the natural resources of this country have scarcely been scratched; and yet I unhesitatingly say we have natural resources which, if developed, are capable of sustaining and will eventually build up one of the greatest of Anglo-Saxon races. Will anyone seriously contend that this development could take place in the face of such a policy as that which is advocated by those who are in opposition to the Government of to-day? This Government is committed to the policy of protection. It is the fundamental plank in its platform. It in no way equivocates or evades the issue. It knows and avows that through this policy alone can the National life of Canada be successfully developed.

Instead of manufacturing our own raw products, we are daily reducing our national wealth by the shipment of our raw products to the United States. We are purchasing from that country \$1,000,000 a day of products more than we are selling to them. The balance of trade is against us. Our money, by reason thereof, is

deflated in their markets to the extent of from twelve to fifteen per cent. To gain access to their markets we are to-day paying them a higher duty than we impose. We are their best customer on this continent and notwithstanding the advantages with which they are thus deriving from Canada they are to-day seriously discussing in their Congress the erection against us of hostile tariff walls so much higher as to be practically insurmountable. To-day we are seriously facing the effects of those adverse conditions, and which daily must become intensified.

The constant avowal by political parties in Canada of free trade or the lowering of the Canadian tariff between the United States and ourselves has left the impression in that country that by the adoption of hostile tariff legislation they can secure the control of our markets in Canada. They have interpreted the declarations of our opponents to our disadvantage to the extent that they believe they can cripple our industries, absorb our trade, and ultimately have at their command this northern half of the American continent. If, instead of this insidious policy of bringing about the ruination of Canada's trade, these gentlemen openly avowed annexation to the United States one could better understand it and better fight it. The logical result of the adoption of such a policy as that which is now openly advocated by the Liberal party and the United Farmers' organization, and particularly in view of the present avowed policy of the United States in increasing its tariff, can only have one outcome, namely, the reduction of Canada to be a mere dependent upon the trade policy of the republic to the south of us. When this point is reached, as it ultimately would be if our opponents had their way in tariff matters, there would be a gradual absorption of this country by the United States. It seems to me, therefore, that there are only two courses to pursue, one of which is to make this country dependent entirely upon the producing and manufacturing interests of the United States—the result of which would be the losing of our national identity; or the building up of our tariff walls to meet whatever hostile conditions the United States may impose against us, and thus preserve our identity and build up a national life worthy of a great Anglo-Saxon people.

I am not at all apprehensive of these free trade theories becoming crystallized into legislation in Canada. I believe the