

the people of the United States. Had he made that statement while the election was going on, had he chosen to curb the attacks of his followers and put a stop to the mode of slandering which was then in practice, I would have held his remarks entitled to more consideration. It may interest the House and my hon. friends opposite and may interest Mr. Borden himself to know how those remarks were received, by some at any rate, among our friends on the other side of the border. I have here an extract which was sent me from some one of the papers of the United States in which they deal with this subject in a fashion which I think is well worth while my hon. friends to consider carefully. The article reads as follows:

We observe that Mr. Borden, the new premier of Canada, has been good enough to intimate at a dinner at New York, that he entertains feelings of the warmest respect and goodwill for the people of the United States.

We are not aware that the people of the United States are likely to concern themselves very much about the state of Mr. Borden's feelings towards them.

But we are aware that Mr. Borden has been elected premier after a campaign during which his partisans and the press which supported him have indulged in every description of paltry innuendo, not to say of downright abuse of the government and people of this country, and that during this campaign the aforesaid Mr. Borden did not make the slightest attempt to check the torrent of vituperation by which he profited.

Now Mr. Borden apparently wishes to apologize.

He might as well and indeed very much better have let it alone.

Neither the insults of his partisans nor his own fulsome apologies will be regarded with anything but contemptuous indifference on this side of the border.

But there is another aspect of the question which he and his friends, and indeed the people of Canada will do well to ponder. No one disputes their perfect right to enter into closer trade relations with the United States or not as they may see fit. But it is one thing to decline an offer courteously and quite another to decline it insolently and to insinuate that it was made from unworthy motives, and this last is exactly what the people of Canada in their collective capacity have just done.

Now it is an open secret that for several years back there has been developing a much more cordial feeling on the part of leading American statesmen and public men generally towards Great Britain and incidentally towards Canada as part of the British Empire than prevailed formerly.

This in our judgment was as it should be. There are many reasons why the United States and the British Empire should act in

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harmony. But the relations between the two countries are in a high degree a matter of sentiment and it would be idle to deny that the recent action of Canada and the senseless abuse of everything American with which the press of the dominant party has teemed for many months have had a very chilling effect on this sentiment, and Canada may congratulate herself on having done more to estrange the two nations by her conduct than she will be able to repair for many a day to come.

I fear that that expresses only too correctly the sentiment of a great many parties who were formerly well disposed towards us in the United States, and as I have said while I would have given Mr. Borden and his friends every credit had they, while this campaign of abuse was going on, raised their little finger to stop it. I am afraid the mischief which has been done is far greater than they will ever be able to repair. I have all my life long seen and felt that the greatest service the people of Canada could render to the British Empire is, was, and will be to cultivate if they can friendly relations with the great nation on the other side of the border. Do these people know—do these slingers of mud recollect that the people of the United States to-day are something like a hundred million strong? They were close on 95,000,000 two years ago when the last census was taken, and they must be close to one hundred millions to-day. If they increase at even a smaller ratio than they have been doing, it is almost mathematically certain that ten years from now they will number one hundred and twenty millions, and within twenty-five years will reach one hundred and fifty millions, and that is the kind of power, that is the sort of nation that these people think it wise and prudent, and in the interest of the British Empire for us to insult and estrange. There is another class of persons as to whom I would say a word, and that is those ungrateful fools among English public men—and I use the words with emphasis—those ungrateful fools who have recently been exulting at the downfall of the only administration that ever conferred any substantial benefit on British trade or even raised a hand to assist British arms. I know enough of the stolid ignorance of Canada and things Canadian which prevails among too large