

On a subsequent occasion, the right honorable gentleman further said, that :

“ Commercial Union with the United States meant that Canada was to give preference to every article of manufacture from the United States over the manufactures from Great Britain. If the people of Canada desired an arrangement of that kind, he did not doubt that they would be able to secure it. He did not think anybody in England would prevent such an arrangement by force ; but he remarked that in that case all the advantages of the slender tie that bound Canada to England would disappear, so far as England was concerned ; and it was not likely that the people of Great Britain would continue much longer to sustain the obligations and responsibilities of a relationship, all the reciprocal benefits of which had been withdrawn.”

The foregoing extracts implied that a persistence in the advocacy of Commercial Union, and success in achieving it, meant that it would be so inconsistent with British welfare, that the relation which existed between the Mother Country and Canada must cease. The advocates of Commercial Union were therefore put in a position hostile to British connection, unless they could show that British welfare was not likely to be seriously injured by the success of a trade union between the United States and Canada ; and also whether interests in Canada were not just as important to the British government and the British people, as those interests which it is claimed would be adversely affected in Great Britain itself. Mr. Wiman said he was glad of the opportunity to discuss the question, as to whether the most perfect development of Canada was inconsistent with British welfare. It was impossible to conceive of any combination of circumstances which would contribute in a greater degree to this most perfect development, than that of breaking down all the barriers to commerce between Canada and the United States ; and they were therefore to consider whether British welfare were likely to be seriously or permanently injured thereby, should this be consummated.

Mr. WIMAN, continuing, said that two great facts must always be present in considering the future of Canada—one was her highly advantageous geographical position, and the other was the potentiality of her productive powers and the enormous value of her natural resources. These two great advantages were assets in the inheritance of every Canadian, and of every resident of Canada.