

districts in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces. In 1894 the Conservatives lowered their protective tariff, and the Liberals soon after adopted a policy of moderate protection, so that the two political parties were brought very close together on the tariff question. Did this help the Conservatives in the farming districts? On the contrary, the Conservatives lost a number of rural constituencies that had supported them steadily for eighteen years.

Old party traditions and prejudices on this question have now disappeared. Both parties having accepted the principle of protection, the time has come for a forward movement. The Conservative tariff at its highest was much lower than the Wilson-Gorman Act of the American Democrats which the Republicans denounced as a move toward free trade. All Canadians irrespective of party, should now unite in demanding of the politicians a protective tariff high enough to preserve the home market for Canadian farmers and Canadian manufacturers. When such a tariff is established, it will no longer be possible to say that each Canadian consumes thirty-two times as much of United States merchandise as each American does of Canadian merchandise.