

CANADIAN RECIPROCITY.

STATEMENT, MAY 28, 1911.

Twenty-five years from now, when another generation has grown up, the wonder will be that any tariff law had ever existed between Canada and the United States. It must be obvious to anyone who knows anything about the history of this continent that the largest freedom of trade between both countries is the best possible thing for their inhabitants. If a line is drawn from the Atlantic to the Pacific from the northernmost point in Maine to the northernmost point of the State of Washington, and this ought to be the natural border line, the principal cities of Canada will be included within our domains. Montreal, the principal city of Canada, is but three hundred and fifty miles from New York or Portland, while Chicago is about a thousand miles. New York and Boston are hundreds of miles nearer Montreal than Halifax or St. John, and ought to be the natural ports of Canada, particularly in those months of the year when the St. Lawrence river is frozen over.

These two nations have now the longest boundary in existence, extending from ocean to ocean; they have lived in peace and mutual respect without a fortress, a soldier, or a gun on either side of the boundary. Each country has about three thousand square miles of territory, the United States with a population of one hundred millions and Canada with but seven millions. According to the best authority the United States will have reached its ability to supply its population with wheat in a few years, while Canada will be just commencing. The United States has just reached the point where its exports consist of manufactured products, while Canada is being settled by a population which will not only develop the wheat fields, but produce pig iron

and coal and minerals of all kinds for use in the development of the great industrial establishments of this country.

When one analyzes the history of our country to find reasons for the marvelous industrial and commercial success it has achieved in the last one hundred years, it will be found that the greatest factor in its development has been the freedom of trade that has existed between all the states of the Union. The map of the United States placed over Europe would cover all that country outside of Russia. More than twenty nations are included, each one armed against the other, supporting millions of soldiers in time of peace, speaking different languages and with different tariffs. The United States, with its forty-eight states, without fortresses, without tariff walls, with cotton in the south, wheat in the west, manufactures in the east, the ocean on the west, the east and the south, has furnished opportunity for the development of trade unexampled in the history of the world. While the United States was forging ahead, Canada was stagnant. Recently Canada has awakened to her advantages; her statesmen and her business men have come to realize the marvelous riches that her soil possesses, and the people are turning to them, with the result that the last ten years has witnessed a prosperity unexampled in the history of the world.

It is utterly foolish for two nations thus equipped, both in their infancy, to be apart in trade matters, and I think the fair-minded citizens of both countries will bless the day that Sir Wilfred Laurier and William H. Taft agree that both nations should adopt a trade policy for the mutual benefit of their peoples.