

plenty of capacity to turn out enough more goods per annum to supply the entire trade of Canada; and that by the further cheapening of production, thereby making larger quantities of goods, the difference in freight would be more than overcome by the difference in the cost of production.

"Taking one view of the case, while Canada and the United States might be in all except local Government a united people, looking at it from a Canadian standpoint I cannot see how so radical a change could be accomplished without great loss to our manufacturing interests.

"Canada should by all means continue her protective tariff system so as to make herself independent, as far as possible of all foreign productions, for to this policy on their part is due the prosperity and success of the United States."

*From MR. WM. CHAPLIN, of the Welland Vale Manufacturing Co., St. Catharines, Ont., Manufacturers of Axes, Edge Tools, Harvest Tools, etc.*

"I believe 'Commercial Union' or 'Reciprocity in Manufactures' with the United States would have the effect of closing up all our Canadian factories—for we could not enter into the competition on even terms. United States manufacturers had the Canadian trade to a large extent up to 1879, and have to some extent retained a foothold in this country ever since. Their goods are well-known in every part of the country, and would be quite as readily bought as those of Canadian manufacture as soon as they could be as freely placed on our markets. On the other hand, Canadian goods are entirely unknown in the United States, and would be slow of sale there as something new and untried. Then Canada would be a favorite dumping-ground for their prison-made goods, and there are three or four prisons in as many states where goods in our lines are extensively made.

"Nearly everything in our line is covered in some part or other by patent in the United States but not in Canada, and the consequence would be that while U.S. manufacturers would have the free run of our markets, our goods made by similar processes would be rigidly excluded by their patent laws. We are far removed from supplies of iron, steel and coal, and these articles would cost us more than they do rival establishments in Ohio, Pennsylvania or New York—in which states the manufacture of goods in our line is mainly concentrated. Capital is also scarcer and more expensive in Canada than in the United States.

"Commercial Union or Reciprocity in Manufactures, in my opinion, instead of developing manufacturing in Canada would tend to concentrate it in the most convenient centres in the United States and in large concerns, and our people would be reduced to the state from which the National Policy so effectually and speedily lifted them—producers of the raw material at starvation prices for the benefit and profit of those who would work them up for and return them to us at greatly enhanced values. If we desire to develop a national and Canadian feeling we must depend on our energies and keep Canada for Canadians."

*From the Manager of an extensive works in Ontario manufacturing Wire Goods, Pressed Tin-Ware, etc.*

"The amount of capital invested in the principal lines of manufacture in Canada is so limited, that it is questionable if many factories here could hold out against the competition of the large capitalists and manufacturers of the United States.

"It is a known fact that with our present tariff on some lines it is just barely possible to keep American manufacturers out, affording us a living margin.

"The competition in the States, and the system adopted there, of the larger manufacturers running the smaller ones, would have a disastrous effect upon Canadian manufacturers, and there would be no object in Canadian manufacturers pushing the sale of their goods at a loss on the American side."

*From MR. A. J. PARKER, President of the Acme Silver Company, Manufacturers of Plated Ware, Toronto, Ont.*

"Speaking with reference to our own business I am of the opinion that neither 'Commercial Union' or 'Reciprocity' are desirable, for the reason that existing prejudice in the United States would almost prevent Canadian manufacturers from selling their goods to any extent in that country. The immense capital employed in kindred trades in the United States would also militate against us. The Eastern States, being the producing localities of that country, give the factories there an advantage as regards labor and supplies, which would necessitate Canadian manufacturers removing there, or going out of business. Being in the United States we could, with the Canadian market open, sell in Canada, but being in Canada with the United States market open, we should find it more difficult to sell goods there. 'Commercial Union,' to my mind, would lead to annexation in a very short time. Reciprocity, except in 'natural products only,' would be only another name for 'destruction' of Canadian industries, with perhaps a few exceptions."

*From the Manager of an extensive Linen and Cordage Factory in Ontario.*

"I think 'Commercial Union' or 'Reciprocity in Manufactures' with the United States would be most injurious to Canadian industries.

"The investment of American manufacturers in plant and machinery are much larger than it would be prudent for Canadian manufactures to make, as our markets are very limited, and in case of Commercial Union they would no doubt ruin a great many of our manufacturers who operate with only limited capital. If we had a duty equal to the duty now imposed on our goods by the United States it would be most beneficial to Canadian manufacturers and their employees, and consumers would not suffer, as the price of goods manufactured in Canada has not been increased by the duty imposed by our present Government. On the contrary, we are to day selling our goods much lower than we could afford to sell them before we had the duty increased from 17½ to 25 per cent.

"We are now manufacturing a ton a day of a certain article, whereas before 1878 we could not make more than a half a ton, and even then we could not keep our hands employed steadily, as American and English manufacturers were selling their surplus stock of similar goods in our market at cost and sometimes even below cost.

"Reciprocity would no doubt place our manufacturing industries in equally as bad a position as they were under the McKenzie government."

*From an Ontario Manufacturer of Edge Tools, Carriage Springs, etc.*

"I think if Commercial Union was gone into it would lead to annexation in a very short time; and as to the question of Reciprocity, I think it is hardly worth discussing so long as our present relations exist with the Mother Country."

*From MR. A. E. CARPENTER, President of the Campbell Sewer Pipe Company, Hamilton, Ont.*

"I think 'Commercial Union' and 'Reciprocity in Manufactures' are only milder names for Free Trade, and amount to our having Free Trade which, to many of our young industries, means ruin."

*From MESSRS. COLIN MCARTHUR & Co., Proprietors of the Montreal Wall Paper Factory, Montreal.*

"We cannot understand there being any difference of opinion as to the advantage of Commercial Union or Reciprocity with the United States, as it would give us a market of