

Reciprocity.

The Hon. George Brown has gone to Washington on a mission in connection with the renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty. We care very little for reciprocity now a days seeing that we can do well enough without it. We should have preferred that the initiative in the matter had come from the United States as they were the means of abolishing it. Still, if they are prepared to meet us half way, and agree to a new treaty on a fair basis, we see no objections to reciprocity. There still exists, however, in the United States, a party utterly hostile to such a treaty. The following decided article against it is from the *Buffalo Express*:-

"The Canadians are again moving in favor of 'Reciprocity.' The Dominion Board of Trade, which met last week, adopted a unanimous resolution in favor of it, and took steps to present the question to the Governments of the United States, Canada and Great Britain."

As it is well known, a system of reciprocity, or partial free trade, between Canada and America was tried some twenty years ago, and after several years probation was terminated by the United States as disadvantageous to the interests of this country. This fact alone should lead Americans to regard with extreme caution a proposition to restore the arrangement in question.

Nor do we believe that a close examination of the scheme will disclose more favorable features. The system of reciprocity desired by the Canadians is one that will admit the natural products of each country into the other free of duty. But almost no natural products or raw material go from the United States to Canada, and the chief result of this kind of reciprocity was and would be the furnishing of an American market for Canadian products free of duty, while no corresponding advantage is afforded to American manufactured articles which are all that we should, under any circumstances, export to Canada.

Even aside from this view of the case, it is more than doubtful whether the United States Government can afford to keep up a line of custom houses along a frontier of nearly four thousand miles, and yet remit the duties on the principal articles passing through them. The expense of collecting the revenue would be the same under reciprocity as at present, yet the revenue itself would be very much less.

Especially in such a case undesirable when, as now, the Government is in absolute need of all its revenue in order to meet its expenses.

'Reciprocity,' so called, is neither fair nor economical. If it were possible to make

an arrangement between the United States and Canada, similar to the German 'Zollverein,' or Customs Unions, by which the custom houses between the two countries could be dispensed with, and the revenue collected on the coast could be fairly divided, it might be worth while to take it into consideration. Probably, however, there are too many practical difficulties in the way.

At all events reciprocity between the United States and Canada, in regard to the natural products of the two countries, would be likely to work only to the advantage of the people of the New Dominion."

Trade Between Canada and the West Indies.

The *Toronto Globe* publishes an elaborate article on this subject from which we make some extracts that will be read with interest:

We have frequently had occasion to refer to the development of trade relationships between Canada and other countries, and how, especially during the last six or seven years, our merchants, instead of being willing, as they were formerly, to let our neighbors be their commission agents, and thereby reap an extra profit, have gone directly into the different markets, and found that they could themselves do business there as promptly and more profitably than ever was possible according to the old plan. There are many countries the ports of which lie as open to us as to our friends over the way. No reason, therefore, exists in the world why we should not in these be our own commission merchants, and pocket the difference. Especially does this hold true of the West Indian and South American trade, which might easily, if properly cultivated, assume, at no distant day, enormous dimensions. To a great extent this trade has hitherto been and is still almost exclusively in the hands of the U. S. merchants. These gentlemen have cultivated it with careful assiduity. A very great deal of what they have traded in has been drawn from Canada, for instead of going to meet them as competitors in tropical markets, we have been content to take what they offered for our wares, and thus have allowed golden opportunities to slip by unimproved.

The first thing to be done to develop the traffic was to have made postal communication easy, direct, and frequent. As it was then, all Canadian communication with the West Indies and South America was by favor of the United States Post Office, with the exception of a monthly despatch from Halifax, which, from its connection with Liverpool steamer, and its running to suit their arrivals and sailings, has never amounted to anything as a mail route. As things were in 1866 they are still substantially in 1874. Nothing has been done to im-

prove our postal connections and facilitate our trade.

As we have said, we sell, with the disadvantage of very heavy import dues, the most of our products to the United States, while we leave such markets as those we speak of almost entirely to these our commercial rivals. Let us take the trade with the British West Indies alone, and see what share we get in what is by no means small, as it is, and destined in a very short time to be very much larger.

The following table shows the export from the United States to the British West India Islands alone, during the six months ending 31st Dec. 1874:-

Agricultural Implements	...	\$ 5,223
Animals, alive	...	261,023
Bread and Biscuit	...	185,516
Indian Corn Meal	...	196,501
Indian Corn	...	80,762
Flour, 205,121 barrels	...	1,377,312
Not specified	...	20,405
Books and Stationery	...	21,222
Oil Cake	...	71,351
Oil, Illuminating	...	72,193
Butter	...	94,017
Cheese	...	42,444
Lard	...	141,233
Sewing Machines	...	39,337
Soap	...	15,140
Bacon and Ham	...	54,789
Beef	...	110,516
Pork	...	291,632
Tobacco	...	104,933
Wood Manufactures	...	80,315
Box Shooks	...	261,690
		<hr/> 7,450,876
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Per annum ... \$9,891,352

Let it be noted that this includes nothing but the British West Indies. The trade with Cuba, San Domingo, all the French, Dutch Spanish and Independent countries in those quarters is to be reckoned in addition. Go over the above list, and it will be seen that with one or two exceptions, all the articles mentioned are our staple products, and that there is not included among them Lumber, which is sent in very large quantities ostensibly from the States, but really the produce of Canada. Let us see now what all Canada sent of these articles to the same islands, during the same six months of 1871:

Ontario	...	\$ 1,753
Quebec	...	121,632
Nova Scotia	...	2,113,262
New Brunswick	...	83,025
		<hr/> 2,318,702

It may be said that this exhibit does not look so badly. Here we have nearly two millions and a half of dollars' worth in all. But then by far the larger moiety of that consists of fish, while of agricultural produce, manufactures, the products of forests, &c., there is almost nothing. While during the year ending 30th June, 1872, Ontario exported to the United States \$19,767,236 worth of her products, of which there were nearly seven millions worth agricultural, in addition to animals, &c., she did not send one barrel of flour, or one pound of cheese or butter, directly to any part of the West Indies or South America.