

tial tariffs with the United Kingdom and reciprocity with the United States are put in sharp antagonism the one with the other ; and men say that they would rather have the first than the second. I can give no such answer. You might as well ask me whether I would rather have a British horse or an American bull. Everything depends upon the details of the two propositions. If you say that they are equally advantageous to me, I have no difficulty in saying that I prefer the horse. But this exact equality is extremely rare ; and so I cannot say whether I would prefer British preference or American reciprocity. If I cannot have both, then I desire that which is best for Canada.

But why assume that the one necessarily excludes the other ? Of course, we cannot give to the United Kingdom, as against the United States, such a preference upon articles which they both produce as would exclude the American product ; and at the same time offer to both their products equality of access to our markets. But it must be borne in mind that our imports are of the most varied and diverse character, and it may well be that with reference to some of the articles comprised in what may be called our field for negotiations, there may be some with reference to which we could bargain with the United Kingdom and others which would form the subject of agreement with the United States.

For example, is there any Canadian who would not gladly welcome a renewal of our Reciprocity Treaty with the United States which existed between the years 1855 and 1866 ? If there is, I am inclined to think that he has not given the subject much thought. That treaty would not, by its terms, prevent our establishment of the contemplated preferential arrangements with the United Kingdom, for it related to natural products only. And it was of vast benefit to us. Let me give you the figures showing our trade with the United States. Remember that the treaty period was March 16, 1855, to March 17, 1866 :