

## A SENSIBLE VIEW OF RECIPROCITY.

From the Chicago Tribune.

In 1854 we established Reciprocal Trade with the British Provinces, in certain articles; that trade continued with annual increase, and to the great profit of both countries until the treaty was terminated in 1864. The course of the people of Lower Canada during the rebellion had an important influence in causing this discontinuance. The trade itself was mutually advantageous, the principal objection being, perhaps, that it did not include many other products of the two countries. The Canadian people have been anxious to renew the treaty in almost any shape that the United States may ask, and we are informed, upon good authority, that in consideration of such a treaty they would undertake the immediate enlargement of the Welland Canal to the capacity of ship navigation at their own expense, and bind themselves to complete the work.

The articles admitted under the treaty of 1854 were breadstuffs, animals, fresh and salted meats, seeds, vegetables, fruits, fish, poultry, eggs, undressed hides and skins, unwrought stone or marble, slate, butter, cheese, tallow, lard, horns, manures, ores, pitch, tar, turpentine, coal, unmanufactured timber and lumber, firewood, plants, trees, pelts, wood, fish oil, rice, broom corn, bark, gypsum, burr or grindstones, dye stuffs, unmanufactured flax, hemp and tow, unmanufactured tobacco and rags. The treaty also admitted us to all the privileges in the fisheries, including the right to land for the purpose of curing and drying fish. It also gave us the navigation of the St. Lawrence and of all the Canadian canals, which right we now enjoy only by sufferance. There were also some local advantages secured to the people of Maine, which have since been cut off.

The only advantage which has accrued to the West from the repeal of the Reciprocity Treaty has been to teach certain narrow minded communities in New England the miseries of a protective tariff. The prices of Western produce have not been increased, because the Canadian surplus, which formerly competed with us in New York, now competes with us in Europe, which comes to the same thing. But the repeal of the treaty has deprived the New England States of cheap coal and cheap lumber, and, worse still, has cut off one of the best markets for their productions, while the unsettled fishery question has ever hung upon the horizon, ominous of trouble with Great Britain. Moreover, a large amount of American capital, invested in coal in the Mines of Nova Scotia and the oil districts of Canada, has been literally destroyed by the tariff, which, in effect, prevents us from getting possession of our own property.

One of the stock arguments against reciprocity with Canada is, that by keeping up a stiff tariff we shall in the end force the British Provinces to apply for annexation. The argument proceeds upon the incomparably absurd idea that mutual irritation, if sufficiently protracted and intensified, will finally make the Canadians so friendly to us that they will want to be admitted to the Union. There is no doubt that the repeal of the treaty has been extremely unpleasant to Canada; that it has inflicted losses upon her by compelling her to seek more costly channels, but we assume that her people are not essentially different from ourselves, and if losses, difficulties, and embarrassments, with occasional taunts, would not lead us to yearn for a closer union with

a people who should impose them upon us, neither will they have that dulcet and harmonious effect upon them.

The enlargement of the Welland Canal to accommodate the lake steamers would be an extension of lake navigation to the port of Oswego, if not to Montreal. It would relieve the West of the delays and the excessive tolls of the Erie Canal, and much of its charge for freight. It would be equivalent to five or six cents per bushel on all the surplus crops of the Northwest, and the sum would annually be added to the income of the producers and consumers. The difference in freight would be not less than \$9,000,000 a year. Assuming that the Dominion Government is willing to enlarge the Welland Canal in the manner proposed, we ask where can the United States obtain so large an advantage at so little cost or rather at no cost, for it is only removing an obstacle which we have raised by a vote in Congress and which another vote may sweep away?

## HOW TO SETTLE THE ALABAMA CLAIMS.

The victims of the Alabama depredations, despairing of any relief from the wild goose policy of Mr. Sumner and others (the *Journal of Commerce* informs us), now propose another plan for recovering their own. The petitioners ask for the appointment of a mercantile commission (by the President), who shall ascertain the actual losses sustained by the claimants, and that certificates issued by the commission shall be good for the amount specified—the holders to be paid out of any sums received from Great Britain in final settlement of our differences with that country.—*N. Y. Evening Express*.

"We second the motion. We are desirous to see on paper a plain, honest statement, such as a committee of merchants could prepare, of the actual Alabama losses. There is little doubt, (indeed, the English Government has almost as good as said so), that a bill for literal damages inflicted by the Alabama School of Cruisers would receive prompt attention in Mr. Bull's counting house. After some little haggling and clipping it would probably be paid. This would not satisfy Mr. Sumner's extravagant notions, and nothing will that is practicable, but it would pay the just claims of worthy Americans who are now kept out of their money by the dilatory do-nothing policy of our Government.—*N. Y. Journal*."

We admire the spirit of the press, and recognize the inventive genius of our neighbours in the clever plan they have suggested for regulating the Alabama claims. We have but one suggestion to make. Let the Federal Government cash the certificates by allowing them to rank for taxes or duties. It is manifestly unfair that individuals should be victimized. The entire community should shoulder the burden. The Government asserts that the demand for damage is equitable and just. Let it practically affirm that truth by compensating the sufferers. "The hundreds of worthy Americans who are now kept out of their money by the 'dilatory, do-nothing policy'" would then be appeased, and the cabinets of Washington and St. James secure an inexhaustible topic of correspondence, when there was a dearth of more interesting matter.

A Western orator, speaking of one of the Bull run races of the war, said: "The Federals ran so fast that the hard tack rattled in their stomachs like beans in a sheet-iron pan."

## THE 40TH BATTALION.

The officers of our County Regiment held their usual annual meeting at Hicks' Hotel in this village on Monday the 7th instant, for the discussion of regimental business. The following officers were present:—

Lt.-Col. Smith, Major Wainwright, Major Elliott; Captains Gifford, Rogers, Smith (Adjutant), Vars, Floyd, Duncan and Hurlbut; Lieutenant Dean (in command of No. 4, in the absence on leave of Capt. A. C. Webb); Ensigns Cumming, Butler, Boswell and Guillet; Paymaster Boggs and Qr.-Master Van Ingen.

As we mentioned last week, it was decided to hold the Battalion Rifle Match in Colborne, on the 8th and 9th June, and, as every exertion will be made by the officers to induce a large muster, we hope our village will display its usual public spirit in aiding to make it worth their while to attend, as we should bear in mind that we shall now have had the privilege of having the annual match held here for three consecutive years, even against the claims of the head quarters town, Cobourg, to say nothing of those of other places.

Many will be glad to learn that the energetic management of the Band Committee has secured the services of Prof. Chaloupka, so long and favorably known to us, as bandmaster; and that the band now numbers twenty-five performers. There is therefore every prospect of our County Regiment having, very shortly, the best band in the service, except perhaps the Grand Trunk Brigade. Our townspeople will be glad to learn that it is in contemplation to give a band concert in Colborne at an early date.

The present efficient state of the band is in a great measure due to the untiring exertions and the excellent judgement of Captain Gifford, and of Dr. Powell, the assistant surgeon of the battalion.

The annual Regimental Ball is to come off in Cobourg on the 21st April.

The officers assembled spent a pleasant hour at our friend Hicks' well-furnished dinner table. After the usual toast of "the Queen," that of the 57th "Battalion" was drunk with due honors, in compliment to Capt. Henry Rogers of that Regiment who happened to be present. Business was then resumed, and the meeting broke up about four o'clock.

The 40th has never yet lost a company from its strength, and we trust our fellow-citizens all over the country will continue to extend such sympathy towards their national soldiery that the ranks may always be found full of volunteers cheered and encouraged by the knowledge of their fellow-countrymen's appreciation of their services.—*Colborne Express*.

## TORONTO DRILL SHED IN RUINS.

NARROW ESCAPE OF THE "QUEEN'S OWN."

A frightful catastrophe occurred last night, resulting in the almost total destruction of the large drill shed. A few minutes past twelve o'clock the roof fell in with a dreadful crash, which was heard for over a circle of a mile and a half. Those residing in the immediate neighborhood were startled from their sleep and sprang from their beds in the wildest state of excitement, believing that "an earthquake" had certainly occurred; and upon looking out of their windows they beheld the dreadful accident that had occurred to the building. A feeling of uneasiness had prevailed for a length