

## PUBLIC MEN AND PUBLIC LIFE IN CANADA

battles of Alma and Inkerman, and the memorable siege and fall of Sebastopol, during which British and French veterans fought side by side, ultimately led to Russia's defeat and the restoration of peace.

But what most concerned us in this war was the effect it had in promoting Canadian prosperity. Before harvest time was over farm produce of all kinds suddenly shot up to fabulous prices. Wheat and flour especially were in great demand, at prices seldom previously attained, the former for a lengthened period hovering about \$1.60 per bushel, and occasionally touching as high as \$2.00. These inflated war prices, combined with the large expenditures being made on the Great Western and Grand Trunk railways, soon made themselves felt to the remotest bounds of the Province.

Still another factor combined to increase the prevailing prosperity—the famous Reciprocity Treaty between the United States and Canada. This had been negotiated chiefly through the skilful diplomacy of His Excellency Lord Elgin, then Governor-General of Canada, who joined Mr. Hincks on his second visit to Washington on the subject. The treaty was signed by the Hon. William M. Marcy (Secretary of State) and Lord Elgin, on behalf of their respective governments, at Washington, on June 5th, 1854, and went into operation on March 15th the following year.

The effect of all these circumstances combined brought upon Canada one of the most extraordinary commercial and financial inflations ever experienced