

The resolutions were finally approved and confirmed at a meeting of the Provincial delegates held at Detroit, on the 11th July, all the Provinces being represented, excepting Newfoundland.

On the 14th, Hon. Joseph Howe, in the convention, delivered a speech, in the course of which he answered fully the complaints made against the action of the Canadian Government. The convention passed unanimously a motion in favor of negotiating a new treaty of reciprocity. It was without effect.

THE NEW YORK FREE TRADE LEAGUE.

During 1866 the American Free Trade League presented to Congress a memorial relative to the Reciprocity Treaty. The memorialists said:—
 “This memorial of the American Free Trade League to the Senate and House Representatives in Congress assembled, respectfully represents that the Reciprocity Treaty regulating trade with the British Provinces has in practice promoted good neighborly feeling between their people and ours, and has proved itself a source of mutual convenience and profit. It has enabled both their people and ours to increase the supply to each of many of the comforts and necessities of life, by permitting a more free exchange of these across the boundary line than in former days was allowed.

“To interrupt this free exchange now would be productive of more discomfort on both sides than if it had never been inaugurated. It would be a step backward in the cultivation of those kindly feelings which it is wise and right always to maintain in the highest degree possible between near neighbors, whether these be political communities or single families. It has certainly resulted in no loss or injury to the people on either sides of the border.

“We, therefore, ask Congress, that it will, at the least, provide for continuing the arrangement of the present treaty. We ask, further, that Congress will enlarge the scope of the existing treaty regulations and provide for an entirely free interchange of all goods between the Provinces and this country, subject to no other taxes or duties than are necessary to make the goods imported in this way contribute as much to our internal revenue as would be levied upon them if of domestic origin. We are satisfied that a very short experience of an entire freedom of exchange of goods between individuals on our side of the boundary and the inhabitants of the Provinces will convince us that it is as beneficial to all as the unrestricted intercourse which exists between the States bordering on the British Provinces and those immediately to the south of them. The people of Canada and the people of this country are capable of making their own bargains for exchanging goods one with another, with mutual benefit in all cases to the individuals and therefore to the communities to which they belong.

(Signed),

“W. C. BRYANT,

“*President, &c*”

On the other hand, the Legislature of West Virginia in the same year passed a resolution requesting their representatives to oppose any proposals for a renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty.