

throughout the States, and allow the Canadians to sell and buy here as freely. Undoubtedly they, in being subjected to the same tariff with us, would in all fairness be consulted as to its provisions; but we, sixty millions, would in all fairness generally have the prevailing voice in determining what the rates should be. The particular methods in which questions of detail should be treated need not now be discussed. The commissioners contemplated by the resolution are for the express purpose of getting all the views and all the facts bearing upon this question.

The amount of our imports from Canada in most of the articles we purchase there is so small compared with the vast consumption of our people that it does not affect the price perceptibly, and as Canada is comparatively depressed in business the prices of articles sold us and on which we lay a tariff are generally lower in Canada by just the amount of our tariff. This is not the case with all articles, but it is true in many cases, and there the Canadians will get an immediate benefit. And, on the other hand, there would be a large absolute gain in market range and in prices for American manufactured goods purchased from us by Canada in place of purchases now made by them in Europe.

The business advantages on both sides are so evident on examination that the more this is discussed the stronger the movement. It is now going forward at such a rate that before long public opinion in Canada and in the United States will be in accord that new and better arrangements than the present can be made; and once the people have reached this conclusion they will quickly find a way of carrying it out.

Already the precise question—a common tariff and excise system—is becoming familiar to the people, and it is discussed in a friendly spirit. We have in the United States perhaps one million Canadians born, and they are excellent citizens. There is a friendly feeling generally. The recent discussions in Canada have awakened discussion here, especially on the business aspect. Less interest is felt in annexation, for we know our country is now very large, and there is enough to do in assimilating the diverse elements we already have. But the enlargement of trade and improved business both north and south of us everybody welcomes, because everybody expects to profit by them.

It is easy to conjure up difficulties of detail that will arise in arranging a common tariff, but these are questions similar to those we have been dealing with a century, and certainly they are very slight compared with the difficulties certain to arise in the future between the two nations if we continue the barrier, 4,000 miles long, with parallel lines of custom-houses and fortifications, between peoples almost exactly alike in business, in feelings, and in race. There will be and there must be an enormous and immense intercourse consequent upon their geographical position and the mutual business interests of both sides; and if vexatious barriers are kept up, irritation and trouble must constantly arise.

Will it be said that England will not consent to any arrangement which would give a preference in one of her colonies to American goods over British goods? Her Government, in a noted instance, did this very thing not many years ago. In 1874, when the reciprocity treaty was being negotiated by Minister Thornton, the English Government instructed him to modify it at the suggestion of the Canadian ministry and make such additions to the list of American goods to be admitted free into Canada as the Canadians desired. He did so, and made out a long list of American articles to be admitted free of duty, so long that