

It might be interesting to make a comparison between some of our exports then and now.

Take, for instance, animals and their products. In 1868 we exported to the value of \$7,000,000; in 1910, \$54,000,000.

Our agricultural exports in 1868 were \$13,000,000. Last year they were \$90,000,000.

The value of the total field crops of Canada last year was \$533,000,000.

In 1868 we had \$33,000,000 in our banks. Last year we had \$925,000,000.

In 1868 the area of Canada was 337,524 square miles. Now it is 3,315,647 square miles.

We have only to consider these things for a moment to realize how far from the truth was the belief of Americans generally and the statements of some of their public men in 1866 to the effect that Canada could not prosper without the markets of the United States.

### **The Western Grain Growers demanded it.**

The third matter of interest before considering the arrangement itself is one of the causes, perhaps the proximate cause of the country being thrown into the present turmoil over this question.

The people of Canada as a whole were satisfied with their progress and prosperity.

But out in our North West there are some farmers whose prosperity is only equalled by their demands.

They raise wheat. They believe that if they could sell their wheat to Uncle Sam without any duty being imposed upon it, it would be a good thing for them.

They are not solicitous as to what the effect would be upon their fellow farmers in other provinces, or upon the country as a whole.

And so they come by the trainload to Ottawa and tell Canada's premier that unless he arranges with the United States to get that duty off wheat dire things would happen to him and his government. And, rather strange to state, Canada's premier apparently believed their statements.

The votes of the farmers in that great West bulked largely in the eyes of the premier, and to save their votes, apparently, he sought to satisfy their demands.

The invitation of President Taft to come and dine with him and discuss reciprocity afforded him an opportunity.