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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

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RECIPROCITY AND ANNEXATION.

After months of silence and mystery shrouding the conferences now going on at Washington for a renewal of the Treaty of Reciprocity, the organs of public opinion in the United States are beginning to discuss the question in its broadest phases and with an emphasis of expression which is so remarkable that we cannot allow them to be passed over in silence.

The leading free trade journal of New York, *The Evening Post*, declares itself almost enthusiastically in favour of reciprocity. It holds that whatever advantages may accrue to Canada from the treaty, those which the United States will reap are certain to be still more considerable. The treaty will cement that good will which ought to exist among neighbours, and Canada will thereby be annexed to the United States in that worthy manner in which all nations should be annexed—by mutual interests and common prosperity—and this will be a conquest richer than all the territorial gains of Russia and Germany.

The *New York World* is hardly less outspoken. It regards the Dominion trade as the geographical inheritance of the United States and avers that reciprocity with Canada means cheaper coal, cheaper vegetables and other necessities of life to operatives in the Eastern States. The *World* states that the Chinese wall set up in 1866, by the abrogation of the treaty, was an evil. The total foreign trade of Canada exceeds \$240,000,000 in gold annually, being a per capita trade of \$60. The American foreign trade in 1873 was 1,300 million dollars, which being divided by 40 millions of people is only \$32.50 per head. Thus Canadians whom it was contemptuously intended to treat as if they were a mere rag-end of creation, beat Americans by nearly 100 per cent per capita in foreign trade. From these remarkable figures, the inference in favour of a renewal of reciprocity is, of course, easily drawn.

The *Springfield Republican* informs us that Mr. Brown finds the chief Senators and prominent men at Washington friendly to his mission. Even Senator Morrill, of Vermont, who had the chief hand in the overthrow of the old reciprocity treaty, is said to be favourable to a new one. It is understood that preliminary drafts have already passed between the two governments. The *Republican* holds that this is the time to close upon a policy of reciprocity with the Dominion. Canada is now practically an independent nation, and if left to herself, is perfectly certain to adopt a protective policy, as against the United States and the rest of the world. If she once adopts protection and her manufacturers get a sufficient plant to make themselves a power in her politics, reciprocity will for a long time be an impossibility. The protected interests like the Pennsylvania iron-makers, will acquire a vested right in high tariffs, and generations must ensue before free trade between the two countries will be possible.

The *Chicago Tribune* which is confessedly one of the best informed, as it is one of the most influential papers in the United States, furnishes us with an outline of the principal clauses of the proposed treaty. They are:

I. The waiver of the money compensation by the United States for the fisheries under the Washington Treaty.

II. That the Canadian canals, from Lake Erie to Montreal, shall be enlarged within three years, at the cost of Canada, so as to admit the passage of vessels 260 feet in length and 45 in breadth, and with a depth equal to the capacity of the lake harbours.

III. That during the continuance of the treaty, all the Canadian canals, and the Erie, Whitehall, Saul Ste. Marie, and Lake St. Clair Canals shall be open to the vessels and boats of both countries on the same conditions and terms.

IV. That the free navigation of Lake Michigan be put on the same terms as the free navigation of the St. Lawrence River.

V. That the navigation of the St. Clair flats shall be maintained at the expense of both countries in proportion to their commerce thereon.

VI. That the products of the farm, forest, mines, and water, and also animals, meats and products of the dairy, be admitted into both countries duty free, as was provided in the treaty of 1854. This list may possibly be extended so as to include agricultural implements, manufactures of iron and steel, and of wool, mineral oils, salt, and a few other articles.

Our Western contemporary is of opinion that the treaty will ultimately lead to annexation. The Canadians—it is good enough to say—are presumed to be like other people and if they are ever to be warmed into a desire for annexation to the United States, it will be done not by treating them as enemies, but as friends and admitting them to the closest commercial amity.

The authorities we have cited are, as will be seen, all in favour of a renewal of the treaty. But they do not represent the universal sentiment of the American press. Among its opponents, we may single out *The Republic*, a monthly political magazine of some standing, published at Washington. That periodical has just printed an elaborate paper on the United States and Canada, in which it takes singular ground against the renewal of reciprocal trade relations between the two countries. From a strict protectionist point of view, it urges three objections to the proposed treaty. The first is that when the former treaty was negotiated, the American Government was comparatively clear of debt. Owing to the cost of a protracted war, the prominent obligations of that Government have been materially increased. These obligations must be met promptly. The revenues for this purpose are derived mainly from the tariff on foreign goods. The importations from the Provinces pay into the United States Treasury about \$9,000,000 annually. A free trade treaty would cut off these receipts, would reduce the annual revenue to that extent, or nearly so, and importations from other countries or the product of the American people themselves would of necessity be required to pay an additional tax to that amount to meet the deficiency.

Another objection which the writer deems insurmountable, comes from the demands of international equity. If free trade or a reduced tariff should be conceded to the Dominion of Canada, similar favour would be demanded, and justly too, by the Southern neighbours of the United States, Cuba, Mexico, the South American Republics and the West India Islands.

The claim of either of these is now as strong as that of Canada and the Maritime Provinces. To refuse, would cause jealousy, while concession would destroy revenue and involve the Government in a system of special free-trade treaties and "entangling alliances," which it has ever been the policy of successive American administrations to avoid. But the greatest barrier which the writer imagines against the treaty, is the injustice it would offer to American products. Under a free-trade reciprocity, the products of the Dominion would have access to American markets without revenue tax, while native farmers, wool-growers, lumberers, and manufacturers would be compelled to meet not only their own share of the Government expenses, but also that portion which is now borne by Canadians. It is predicted that no such injustice will ever be countenanced by the Administration or Congress.

The Washington periodical having stated the negative aspect of the case as strong as it knew how, shifts its ground suddenly and comes out in a bold, exhaustive argument for annexation. The reasoning on this thesis is carefully tabulated and altogether tersely put. Thus: Reciprocity is subject to a termination, a union would be perpetual;—Reciprocity is partial, union would be complete; Reciprocity is clogged by enormous expenses, which would be wholly removed by consolidation; under Reciprocity there would be two general governments to sustain, under the union only one.

The writer boldly declares that a majority and, in some Provinces, nine-tenths of the people are in favour of a peaceable union with the States. If a different sentiment exists at all, it will be found merely among officials. The speeches on the Murray resolutions in Nova Scotia, and the Cudlip resolutions in the New Brunswick Legislature, and the debates in the legislatures of all the Provinces, outside of the Canadas proper, clearly indicate the public desire for closer relations with the United States. At Ottawa, when the Parliament was convened on the 13th August last, the writer, in conversation with a large number of members, found a great unanimity of sentiment and even enthusiasm in favour of a union; but the wish was frequently accompanied with an expression of grave doubts as to its probability, on the ground of their present relations with England.

We have left ourselves no space to discuss the views here adduced; we leave them as they stand for the consideration of the reader.

A decision was given last week by our Police Magistrate which has occasioned much angry comment, not only among the immediate friends of the sufferers, but also among the public at large. It appears that two young ladies of known respectability, while pursuing their way homewards, were followed and insulted by some of the many *chevaliers du pavé* with whom Montreal abounds, who ventured to make improper proposals to their unfortunate victims. On reaching home the latter immediately informed their brother of the indignities to which they had been exposed, and the gentleman, naturally irate, sallied forth and administered a sound thrashing to the intruders. The next day he was arrested and fined twelve dollars for assault. A counter complaint was lodged, but the officious gentry who had so grossly insulted the unprotected females got off with a fine of six dollars a piece. In the present state of the law it is difficult to find fault with the magistrate, but it certainly is time that some steps were taken to relieve the metropolis of the Dominion from the reproach under which it lies owing to the notorious inefficiency, in point of numbers, of its police force. It is only the other day that a ruffian entered a private house in this city in broad daylight and grossly assaulted the servant girl. A gentleman who happened to be passing followed the assailant half through the city without meeting a single policeman, and finally the scoundrel made good his escape. With such little attractions as the above to offer to tourists and intending settlers, it is extremely doubtful if Montreal will long continue to be sought after. As it is, it certainly is not as safe as could be wished, while for tax-payers it is the most ungrateful city to live in, perhaps without exception, on the face of the continent. However, things have gone on so long without amelioration that it is useless to expect better things until a few of the members of the Police Committee—and a few other committees we could name—have suffered from the ills from which they are either powerless or too careless to protect the citizens.

At last the bolt has fallen. Parliament has decided in solemn conclave that the reports of its proceedings as they appear in the columns of the daily press are not sufficiently correct to supply material for the reference of future historians. Each journal, it is claimed, colours its reports to suit its own and its subscribers' favourite shade of politics; and the result to a reader accustomed to peruse several journals of various party stripes resembles the variegated hues of the figure of a kaleidoscope, without its accuracy or regularity of outline. The Ministerial organ gives great prominence to the speeches of the honourable gentlemen on the Treasury benches, and a few of their most prominent backers; while it unmercifully cuts down the utterances of the leading honourable gentlemen opposite, and utterly ignores, or at best ungraciously acknowledges, the existence of the lesser lights who do not belong to the "Polloi" of the Opposition. Nor are the opposition papers one whit the better. Reversing the operation, the same story may be told of them. Again, journals of all shades unite in suppressing the speeches of the little men, much to the disappointment of the speakers, but greatly to the contentment and advantage of the reader. Thus dissatisfaction with the present manner of reporting reigns in all quarters of the House, and the result is an all but unanimous feeling in favour of a special system based in some respects on that which obtains in England. On Monday last the House adopted the report of the select committee appointed to consider the "Hansard" question—a summary of which appeared in our Ottawa correspondence last week. We have already expressed our opinions on the advisability of the publication of an official report, and we congratulate the House on the prompt and speedy manner in which it has carried through this important measure.

Major Walker's motion for a return of all the employees of the Civil Service, with their ages, birth-places, previous occupation and date of appointment, has been withdrawn in concurrence with the desire and advice of members on both sides of the House. The object of this motion, at first sight somewhat incomprehensible, was to call the attention of the Government to the desirability of adopting the system of competitive examinations for appointments in the Civil Service. This system has worked so well elsewhere that it is greatly to be regretted that the effort to introduce it in this country was frowned down at the outset. Its adoption would do away with an immense amount of political patronage, and would thus greatly lessen the number of cases of corruption in high quarters. It would also secure the appointment of able and hard-working men, and would establish a fair system of promotion in the service. Further, it would have the inestimable benefit of doing away with the hungry crowd of persistent, and too often incapable, office-seekers who under the present system are continually besieging the holders of patronage, and of compelling them to seek other means