

heretofore expressed somewhat liberal sentiments upon this subject, that there is a desire upon the part of the people whom you so fully represent, for a thorough investigation into the merits of the proposition.

One proposition is that the Custom Houses upon the boundary line from the Atlantic to the Pacific should be abolished, or maintained only for the purpose of statistical information ; and that there should be the freest interchange of products and commodities between the two countries—that to prevent the smuggling of foreign goods from the country which might have a lower tariff into the country having a higher tariff, an assimilation of the tariffs of the two countries should take place. This should not be difficult of accomplishment ; for the buoyancy of your revenue seems to point in the direction of a reduction of your tariff ; while the policy of protection to manufacturers adopted in Canada, somewhat after the example of the Republic, *tends towards an increase of duty*, and the difference in the duty between the two, taken all round, is probably not more than ten to fifteen per cent., so that if approached in a spirit of compromise, an intermediate figure might be reached with advantage to both countries. The internal revenue duties would have to be dealt with in a similar manner.

As a large proportion of Canadian imports reach Canada through your American cities on the sea board, the loss of revenue to Canada in this way would have to be adjusted by a contribution from the common purse, the details of which would not be difficult to arrive at ; and there would be involved in this an arrangement for

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for a fixed number of years, which would have to be long enough to induce our manufacturers to adapt themselves and their machinery for the supply of the larger market which the changed circumstances would require.

Another proposition is, that reciprocally the duties should be abolished by both countries upon all products and commodities, the growth, produce, or manufacture of the other country, leaving freedom to each country to levy what duties they might think proper upon the goods of other countries.

The object, you will notice, is the same, namely, to secure Continental free trade ; and the methods by which it may receive effect may be very well left to the diplomatists and statesmen to arrange, the principle being once affirmed by both parties.