

THE RECIPROCITY QUESTION.

TRADE BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES.

The intent of the Reciprocity Treaty was not to increase the revenue of Governments, on one side or another; as expressed in the preamble, the objects were, to settle a "misunderstanding" in regard to the extent of the right of fishing on the coasts of British North America, and to regulate trade and commerce, so as to be reciprocally beneficial and satisfactory. The terms of the Treaty are clear and specific. Vague generalities have been indulged in, about the unequal and invidious working of the measure. On the merits of the case, however, the argument of the Finance Minister (Hon. A. T. Galt), published three years ago, is unanswerable.

A table given on page 13 of the "Report of the Trade and Commerce of Montreal for 1863,"* showed that the business between Canada and the United States increased from \$24,182,103 in 1854, to \$40,236,887 in 1862, or 66 $\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. in eight years. In 1854, 38 $\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. of the whole imports of Canada were from the United States; the proportion having increased to 51 $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. in 1862. In 1862, Canada purchased goods valued at \$25,173,157 from the United States; while the purchases by the United States from this Province amounted to only \$15,063,730,—turning the so-called "balance of trade" against Canada to the extent of \$10,109,427. In that year, the United States bought \$774,761 worth of dutiable goods from Canada; while Canada bought \$6,128,783 worth of dutiable goods from the United States,—a plain indication of the relative liberality of the tariffs of the two countries.

A table is given on page 35, which shows that the average annual value of imports into Canada from the United States, during fourteen and a half years, was 47 $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. of the entire imports into the Province from all parts of the world; the rate for nine years and a half being 51 $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.

But, to be more explicit.—The following table shows the values of Free Goods purchased in the markets of the United States and imported into Canada, during fourteen years and a half,—the figures for 1864 being for first six months

* It should be stated, that early in 1864, a copy of the table here referred to, and the Canadian Tariffs of 1853 and 1863, were addressed by the Montreal Board of Trade to the Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade throughout the United States, with a request, that these bodies would examine the documents, and state whether, in view of the facts, they would recommend alteration or abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty. In only one or two instances was receipt of the communication acknowledged.

of that year
Reciprocity

CALENDAR YEAR

1850	.....
1851	.....
1852	.....
1853	.....
1854	.....
1855	.....
1856	.....
1857	.....
1858	.....
1859	.....
1860	.....
1861	.....
1862	.....
1863	.....
1864	($\frac{1}{2}$ -year)

In this t
and bullion im
\$2,530,297;
The sub
markets of th
half years. T
Province thro
included in th

CALENDAR YEARS.

1850	.....
1851	.....
1852	.....
1853	.....
1854	.....
1855	.....
1856	.....
1857	.....
1858	.....
1859	.....
1860	.....
1861	.....
1862	.....
1863	.....
1864	($\frac{1}{2}$ -year)