

On the contrary, while well aware that one of its most important stipulations are yet unfulfilled (that contained in the third paragraph of the fourth article, relative to the navigation of State canals), and that no attempt has been made to meet the conditions of the case by the United States Government; and that a very restricted and illiberal construction has been put on the *first, fourteenth and seventeenth* articles, to be admitted in the Free Schedule, yet the United States craft have been allowed to navigate our canals, free of tolls, for more than one season, and on the same footing as British vessels. During the year 1864 the number of American vessels navigating these canals were 1,433, of an aggregate freight capacity of 278,463 tons, while not one British craft was found on their waters.

We have admitted American manufactured flour, whether from home grown or Canadian wheat—we have admitted pig iron, pig lead and crude copper, free of duty; and it certainly must be a considerable amount of casuistry to make *tongued, grooved and planed* more of a manufactured article than the same material fresh from the saw.

The course followed by the United States Government is directly the reverse of this. They will not admit Canadian manufactured flour without an affidavit that it is not the produce of wheat grown on their own territory. They keep Consuls at our principal ports, from whom we must obtain permits before we can take a cargo of free goods to any of their ports, and pay for the privilege too. They levy duties on pig lead, pig iron, and crude copper, and planed, tongued and grooved lumber, as well as other articles of agricultural produce. They deny our ships register on equitable terms, and they engross our fisheries, which are valued to the Eastern States alone at \$3,000,000 per annum, and for which we receive no equivalent whatever, so that, as far as we are concerned, Reciprocity is a misnomer, and its abrogation would not be that fearful evil to British North America which some people in the United States imagine.

The idea appears to be entertained by a portion of the people of the United States that the abrogation of this Treaty would compel *annexation*. No greater political fallacy was ever broached. As a people, our interests, directly and indirectly, are bound up with those of the great empire of which we form a component part. Even our trade relations are more important with her than with the United States, because she manufactures more cheaply, and the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty will be far more likely to give these interests a preponderating influence than otherwise.