

ply it, unless *legislation* forbids. The Nova Scotians are large ship owners,—Halifax most favourably situated for an *entrepot*, and our canals must release a large amount of capital, now locked up in winter, in the sailing marine of the lakes. It is not probable, therefore, that the Americans can long continue to exact twenty per cent discount upon the agricultural produce of Canada. If we do not carry on a direct trade ourselves with the Southern countries we have mentioned, the Blue-noses will do it for us, and—as a necessary consequence—they will supply us with the groceries and West India produce we now receive through the States. Where we sell there will we buy. As far as we require English goods we will export timber and flour to pay for them, and as much more as we can sell there; and the Americans will soon see that to retain the portion of our trade which they now possess, they must give us facilities for *selling* as well as for buying in their markets.

A war of tariffs or trade regulations we cannot now afford—and a confession of weakness is not likely to further our object. We therefore believe that the speedy completion of our canals and perfecting of the river navigation, with a liberal commercial policy in at least the infancy of our trade, will be the readiest method of *obtaining* reciprocity, and of rendering us *independent* of it. The privilege of exporting through the United States, in bond, has given rise to unfavourable speculations with regard to the value of our canals;—but it should be remembered, that this privilege was not granted *until we had commenced* the improvement of the St. Lawrence; and never would have been conceded but for the purpose of weakening our efforts toward commercial self-emancipation.

Whether we obtain reciprocity or not, and whatever be our future commercial position with regard to the United States, our policy is the same, viz., to render ourselves speedily and permanently independent of all other routes, so long as we have one (under the control of our own legis-