

CONVENTION AT DETROIT.

A commercial convention was called by business men of the Western States, and held in Detroit during the month of July, 1865. Delegates from the British North American Provinces were invited to attend. These, being appointed by the Boards of Trade in British North America, met in Toronto excepting those of the Maritime Provinces who, owing to the shortness of the call, were unable to be present. At the Toronto meeting the following resolutions were unanimously adopted.

“ Resolved, That the Reciprocity Treaty, although in some important respects incomplete as regards the interests of British North America, has, on the whole, been mutually advantageous being based on sound commercial principles, and that an effort should be made to obtain the sanction of the Detroit Convention to a renewal of the Treaty; and to include in such sanction the modifications which may be found advisable to further international interests which are not inconsistent with Imperial Policy.

“ Resolved, That this Committee will urge upon the Government of Canada the importance of immediately enlarging the Welland and deepening the St. Lawrence Canals; and it will favour the construction of such new routes through Canada for the transportation of Western produce to the seaboard as may be found requisite for the wants of that extensive traffic and not inconsistent with the financial condition of the country.

“ Resolved, That the following subjects in connection with the Reciprocity Treaty be made special topics for enquiry and modification if deemed expedient by the provincial delegates when assembled at Detroit.

1st. The extent of advantage gained by the United States through the privilege of fishing in colonial waters as compared with the concessions made with British North America in this respect, taking into consideration the operation of the large bounty paid by the United States Government to their own fishermen.

2nd. That there are many articles, the growth and produce of British North America, which may, with advantage, be added to the list of free goods; and that the respective Boards of Trade of the Provinces be requested to send a list of such articles as they may suggest for reciprocal trade with the United States to the Board of Trade Toronto or Montreal, as the case may be, for the guidance of the delegates to the Detroit convention.

3. That special notice be taken of the fact that the clause in the Reciprocity Treaty by which the United States Government engaged “to urge upon the States Government to secure to the subjects of Her Britannic Majesty, the use of the several state canals,” had proved wholly inoperative, inasmuch as all American state canals have been strictly closed against our vessels, while we have admitted their vessels on terms of complete equality with our own.

4. That British and colonial built ships ought to be admitted to United States registration in the same manner as United States vessels are now admitted to British registration, and that an extension of privileges in the coasting trade should be mutually conceded.”