

And I remember the haughty scorn with which the United States treated our requests afterwards for a renewal of the treaty.

Then, when we really needed reciprocity they scorned our offers.

Yet, with the treatment of the past still in mind, and at a time when public opinion has practically compelled the United States government to lower their tariff wall and let in our agricultural products, our ministers tumble over each other, at the beck and call of President Taft, in their haste to lower our own tariff which has protected Canadian farmers from the products of the United States.

Then again I chafe under the blatant and widespread assumption in the United States that reciprocity is only the thin edge of the wedge, and that commercial union and then political union—annexation will follow.

Not only no Demand but no Need of Reciprocity.

The second thing of interest to consider is the fact that not only was there no demand for reciprocity, but there was no need of it.

Under our present policy of Canada for the Canadians we have been getting and are still getting more than our share of the world's prosperity.

The words of Mr. Sifton, a former member of the government, who feels so strongly against this proposed arrangement that he has been obliged to leave his party, will describe our condition. Let me quote them to you.

"We know how the population has grown. We know how our public revenue, our foreign trade and the deposits in our banks have grown. We know that in the last twelve or fifteen years the Dominion of Canada has prospered more abundantly than any other country on the face of the earth. We know this, further, that man for man the body of the people of Canada are better off than any other population of similar numbers that we can point to."

Consider our growth.

Take for example Canada's trade in 1868 and in 1910. In 1868 it was \$116,000,000; in 1910, \$649,000,000, an increase in forty-two years of 459 per cent.

The exports then were \$49,000,000. Last year they were \$279,000,000, an increase of 470 per cent.

The imports then were \$67,000,000. Last year they were \$370,000,000, an increase of 450 per cent.