

The report of proceedings before the United States Committee of Ways and Means is interesting and may be found in Canadian Pamphlets, 354.

It has been considered advisable to be thus full and explicit in details, because it is important, first, to find out the general policy of the United States so far as that can be discovered from the utterances of their public men and the Acts of their Congress and Legislatures; and, second, to ascertain, with accuracy, the motives which prompted the abolition of the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854.

GENERAL POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES.

It is abundantly evident, 1st; that the general policy of the United States up to 1866, was the development of the countries of this continent into a close trade corporation, having more intimate trade relations with each other than with the rest of the world. 2nd.—that the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854 was abrogated because in its results it did not advance the main principle of the trade policy of the United States, and because it was believed the repeal of the Treaty would force Canada into closer relations, such as the Zollverein arrangement between the States of Germany.

It has, since the abrogation of the Treaty, been asserted that the reason for the withdrawal of the United States from the reciprocal trade relations established between them and the British North American Provinces by the Treaty of 1854 was that the notice for repeal was given at a time when the United States were deeply offended with Great Britain in consequence of supposed antagonism to the federated states in their struggle with the confederated states of the South. No such reason appears in any of the documents reviewed and first presents itself as a suggestion in the report of E. H. Derby after the Treaty was abrogated.

The Board of Trade of Portland, Maine, proposed closer relations in 1859. Mr. Taylor, in 1860, proposed a Zollverein. The Oswego and Chicago Board of Trade later on suggested the Zollverein. The House Committee on Commerce in 1862 advocate the Zollverein. Mr. Derby in his report of 1867 advocates the Zollverein. It is plain, therefore, that the underlying motive of the abrogation was dissatisfaction with the Treaty, because Canada showed indisposition, at that period of her history as in all previous periods, to merge her identity in the United States.

Mr. Hatch in his report of 1869, says: "Had the Canadians been willing to accept the liberal privileges extended to them in the fraternal spirit they were granted, yielding to the destiny unalterably fixed by geography, climate and the boundaries established by the Ashburton Treaty, * * * they would to-day have been enjoying commercial freedom and free access to our markets for the sale of their