

private enterprises as in any of the present States. It would equalise the value of real estate upon both sides of the boundary, thereby probably doubling at once the entire present value of property in Canada, whilst, by giving stability to our institutions and introducing prosperity, it would raise our public, corporate and private credit.

"It would increase our commerce both with the United States and foreign countries, and would not necessarily diminish to any great extent our intercourse with Great Britain, which our products would, for the most part enter on the same terms as now. It would render our rivers and canals the highway for the immigration to and for the exports from the West to the incalculable benefit of our country.

"It would also introduce manufactures, and to Lower Canada especially, where water powers are abundant and cheap, it would attract manufacturing capital, enhancing the value of property and agricultural produce and giving remunerative employment to what is at present a non-producing population. Nor would the United States merely furnish the capital for our manufactures. They would also supply them with the most extensive market in the world without the intervention of a customs officer. Railways would forthwith be constructed by American capital as feeders for all the great lines now approaching our frontiers, and railway enterprise in general would doubtless be as active and prosperous as amongst our neighbors.

"The value of our agricultural products would be raised at once to a par with that of the United States whilst agricultural implements and many of the necessities of life such as tea, coffee and sugar would be greatly reduced in price. The value of our timber would also be greatly enhanced by free access to the American market, where it bears a high price but is subject to an onerous duty. At the same time there is every reason to believe that ship-builders, as well at Quebec as on the great lakes, would find an unlimited market in all parts of the American continent.

"The simple and economical State government in which direct responsibility to the people is a distinguished feature, would be substituted for a system at once cumbrous and expensive.

"In the place of war and the alarms of war with a neighbor there would be peace and amity. Disagreements between the United States and her chief if not only rival among nations would not make the soil of Canada the sanguinary arena for their settlement, as under our existing relations must necessarily be the case. That such is the unenviable condition of our state of dependence upon Great Britain is known to the whole world, and how far it may conduce to keep prudent capitalists from making investments in the country, or wealthy settlers from selecting a foredoomed battle-field for the home of themselves and their children, it needs no reasoning on our part to elucidate.

"But other advantages than those bearing on our material interests may be foretold. It would change the ground of political contest between races and parties, allay and obliterate those irritations and conflicts of rancor and recrimination which have hitherto disturbed our social fabric. Changing a subordinate for an independent condition, we would take our station among the nations of the earth. We have now no voice in the affairs of the empire nor do we share in its honors or emoluments. England is our parent state with whom we have no equality, but towards whom we stand in the simple relation of obedience. But, as citizens of the United States the public service of the nation would be open to us—a field of high and honorable distinction on which we and our posterity might enter on terms of perfect equality."