

the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans from the nations of the Old World and enjoying the yet slightly developed advantages of their country, their rates of the wages of labor are on the whole not widely different from our own. From the greater part of the Canadian settlements, and at an average cost not far if at all exceeding that of the wages of an artisan for a single day, a man may come to the United States where he can earn such wages as are paid here and enjoy the advantages of republican institutions. In addition to these considerations, Canada is on the whole a forest and farming country, ready not only to sell us many of the bulky articles we need for common use or for exportation but also to receive in return those manufactures of which under the policy we have adopted we have a large surplus, and for which we have not yet found sufficient markets.

It has followed as a matter of course, from the relative positions of the United States and Canada and the distance of both from Europe and Asia with their dense populations, that their commercial relations have engaged the attention of the most sagacious statesmen and merchants of our country from the beginning of its history to the present time; and the advocates of the most liberal and intimate system of exchanges with the Canadians have been confined to no party, but have included in their number protectionists as well as free-traders. The advantages which, under a system of just and fair reciprocity, our own citizens and the people of the Dominion would mutually give and receive are at least, in proportion to their respective populations, as valuable as those which any States or groups of States confer upon each other by the unlimited freedom of trade between them, and these benefits are among the greatest derived from the Union and are the strongest bond for its preservation and perpetuity. The barriers to intercourse between our citizens and the Canadians are wholly artificial, the results of human law, and can easily be removed by mutual agreement and appropriate legislation.

HOW TRADE WITH CANADA IS REGARDED.

During the last twelve months the chief commercial bodies throughout the Northern States have passed resolutions earnestly in favor of the motion now before this House for the appointment of commissioners by the United States and on the part of Canada, through Great Britain, to inquire and ascertain by mutual investigation and conference how far it is practicable to extend our commerce with the Dominion.

In the States upon our northern frontier the advantages of an extension of our trade with Canada are, with perhaps a few local exceptions, highly appreciated by all thinking commercial men. A more complete system of the exchange of the products of labor between the two countries is warmly desired by the people of New