

Reciprocity Agreement With United States

Canada enjoyed reciprocal trade relations with the United States under a treaty entered into with Great Britain in 1854, but because a political party favouring protection came into power in the United States, that treaty was denounced in 1866, and the American market was blocked against Canadian products of farm and field, to the great embarrassment of Canadian producers.

Each Government of Canada since 1866 and down to 1911 has made every legitimate effort to secure a renewal of reciprocal trade in natural products with the United States. In 1878 the so-called National Policy tariff of the Conservative Government contained a clause offering to the United States reciprocal trade in natural products—similar to the agreement now made by the Liberal Government. It has been the accepted policy of the Conservative Government from Confederation down to January last, when the present agreement was announced. Then, for the first time, the Conservative Party, now led by Mr. Borden, went back upon its professions of forty years.

BENEFITS OF RECIPROCITY

In the province of British Columbia there are four chief industries which will be favourably affected by the ratification of the agreement. These are: