

of trade if he will only avail himself of the opportunity, and he does not need to go to Patagonia, Samoa, Tahiti, the Congo and other distant lands. Let him turn his attention to the country lying at our very doors.

The condition of civilised states, and especially the Anglo-Saxon communities, has been for many generations past a condition of development and progress. The evolution in the case of Anglo-Saxon states has been rapid and continuous. They are continually advancing to a higher social and potential plane. If we contrast the condition of England, for instance, in 1700, with its population of five and a half millions, with but one considerable city, with a commerce infinitesimal in its proportions to that of the commerce of to-day, with small provincial towns, with a rude husbandry in the interior, without social development, without manufacturing development, without commercial development—if we compare that country with the England of to-day, the transition is a wonderful one. If we compare Canada in 1759, with its 60,000 people clustering along the banks of the St. Lawrence, with Canada of 1889, with its railway lines extending across the continent, with its development in manufactures, commerce and agriculture, with its population of 5,000,000, here again is a wonderful transition. If we compare the United States in 1776, with their 3,000,000 of people, a country which in 1790 had but four cities of over 10,000 inhabitants, which possessed only 75 post offices, 1,800 miles of postal route, which paid only \$22,000 a year for the transportation of the mails—if we compare that country with the United States of to-day with 62,000,000 people, with its vast development in commerce, manufactures and agriculture, this is a wonderful transition. And the condition of these countries is constantly changing and the circumstances surrounding these countries are changing. They are impelled forward by forces from within and by forces from without, and we need to note these changing conditions; we need to govern ourselves by these changing conditions, and to let the circumstances of our case adapt themselves to these conditions. In 1776 these thirteen colonies and Canada went different roads. They had lived together under one Government, subject to the same king, for seventeen years, and when the thirteen colonies revolted, Canada had not been associated with those colonies long enough to follow their example. The circumstances of the case were entirely different and they took different ways, and the result of those experiments we may see to-day: in the one case in the creation of a great nation with its own history, with its own national life and with the world looking to it as one of the great powers of the earth, while in the other case we see as the result of the experiment the creation of a great colony, without a history of its own, challenging the attention of the world, and shining, not in its own light, but in the borrowed light of another luminary. For many years, there was not much in the conditions surrounding us to make intercourse between the two countries so desirable as it is to-day. From 1776 to 1842, the colonies were protected by the English corn laws; differential duties were imposed in their interest upon breadstuffs, lumber, and timber, and the desire for free intercourse with the American States or colonies naturally had no pronounced existence. The American States have prospered and grown rapidly, and a condition of things more favorable to their growth could not have been desired. Since 1842, when the corn laws were abolished, the desirability of intercourse with the United States became greater and greater each year, and in 1849 an annexation party was already in existence in this country, many of the members of which have since been in connection with the party at present in power. We had Sir John Rose, Sir A. T. Galt, the Hon. J. J. C. Abbott, and other gentlemen high in the Conservative ranks, who were members of that party.

In 1854, however, free intercourse with the United States was secured, and when that intercourse was secured the annexation party disappeared. The country enjoyed that free intercourse for twelve years, and grew and prospered under it. In 1866, when that reciprocity was abrogated the country felt the disastrous influence of that abrogation in the severest manner, and there has not been a day since the abrogation of that treaty that Canada has not desired its renewal; there has not been a day since the abrogation of that treaty when it would not be in the highest degree desirable, in the light of Canada's interests, to have renewed that treaty; and, as year after year rolled by, the desirability of renewing it became more palpable and greater. When the treaty was abrogated the United States had a population, probably, of thirty-five million souls, and to-day that nation has a population of at least sixty-two millions. To-day it has more than double the wealth it had in 1866; to-day it is a much more desirable country, or customer, to deal with than it was in 1866; and to-day it is infinitely more desirable to secure reciprocity with the United States in the interests of Canada than it was in 1866. That country with its sixty-two million inhabitants, with its fifty-eight thousand millions of wealth (ten thousand millions more than England) with its vast manufacturing industries, its vast internal commerce, its immense and growing progress and development, is a desirable customer for us to have; and, notwithstanding all the restrictions upon trade, notwithstanding the commercial hostility between us, nature asserts itself, our geographical position asserts itself, and the trade of Canada, under all those adverse circumstances with the United States, is greater than the trade of Canada with any other nation of the world.

Why is it that we have seen in the past one hundred years so marvellous a development in this country to the south of us. In 1776 they commenced with free trade between thirteen States, and as one State after another has been added to that confederation the area and scope of this reciprocal free trade has been extended. The number of States banded together in this Zollverein, or this customs union if you may term it so, have increased from 13 to 42. The population under this arrangement has increased from three millions to sixty-two millions, and, as population has increased, as the number of States have been increased, as the scope of the operation of these free trade influences have been extended, their beneficent character has become more and more apparent. Does any man suppose that if tariffs had existed between each of these States, or if the States were divided into groups with a tariff between one group and another, that we would have seen that development which has taken place in the United States within the last hundred years. No man of sense will assert that such would have been the case. This country with its different zones, its great variety of climate, its great variety of production—a country embracing within its own limits almost all the productions of the known world,—was a magnificent field for the operation of free trade, for the development of the influences and results that flow from free trade and notwithstanding that their own fiscal policy with regard to other countries has been faulty yet the advantages of free intercommunication between all these States has been so great, that we see the results before us to-day in the accumulation of its great power, its greater wealth than any other country in the world, in its greater extent of manufactures than any other country in the world, and its ability to raise a greater revenue and undergo a greater stress in that respect than any other power in Christendom. To-day, Sir, we in Canada are situated outside of that magic circle. My friend the Minister of Finance the other night depicted in glowing and very powerful terms the repressing results of the existence of tariffs between the various Provinces comprising this Dominion before Con-