

The People of the Country not even Consulted.

And I may add here that, to me, it is almost intolerable that these two men, worthy men though they may be, should be allowed to make a hard and fast agreement of such momentous importance, and with such far-reaching results, without the people affected having anything to say in the matter—yes, without having even been consulted.

Here is a question which the Canadian people presumed was dead, a question which had not been in issue for years, and yet two men, without any mandate from the people, make an agreement concerning it which is obnoxious, to say the least, to a large percentage of the country.

As fair-minded men we must all admit that such a course is not fair nor in keeping with the principles of responsible government.

It would go in Russia. It should not go in Canada. This thing should not be forced upon a free people.

The people of Canada should be allowed to declare whether or not they want reciprocity, especially in the form now offered them.

They should not be compelled to accept the decision of Messrs. Fielding and Patterson.

Let the people decide.

Have We Forgotten Past Treatment?

And again I chafe under the collar, so to speak, when there is brought to my mind the reason why the United States brought to an end the former treaty.

Senator Beveridge gives the reason as a passion for revenge.

The repeal by the United States in 1866 of the treaty of 1854 was, under the conditions then existing, a severe blow to Canada.

The United States knew that it would be a severe blow to us at that time, and this was largely the reason why they refused to continue the treaty.

Secretary Boutwell of President Grant's administration said: "Canada needs our markets and our ocean ports, and without them she cannot prosper."

The secretary was right concerning our needs at that time, but no one ever made a greater mistake than he did in thinking that we could not prosper as a people without their markets and ports.

Our prosperity in the past years and extending to the present time gives to that statement the lie.