

against Canada and the Mother Country, but it was very properly vetoed. The year previous informal negotiations had been entered into for the annexation of the islands to the United States, but they had to be abandoned. About the same time commenced the Commercial Union movement engineered in Canada with a similar object in view. Senator Sherman announced that in ten years the Dominion would be annexed to the Republic, and Messrs. Butterworth, Hitt, Wiman, Goldwin Smith and others took up the propaganda. In 1885 the Riel rebellion occurred. Great sympathy was expressed for the leader and the rebels generally in the United States and as in the previous time of trouble during the Fort Garry rebellion of 1871, our troops were refused permission to travel on American railroads.

But the great and officially indefensible act of this period was the abrogation after due notice of that portion of the Washington Treaty which effected the fishing relations of the two countries. No particular reason was assigned, but when the Dominion Government properly concluded that abrogation on one side meant the same thing on the other and promptly proceeded to fall back upon the treaty of 1818, which still held good, for the protection of our fisheries against poachers and poaching, great was the outcry. A temporary *modus vivendi* was granted the Americans, and after much war-like talk, the Eagle concluded that something must be done and a treaty was negotiated but promptly repudiated by the Senate. Then President Cleveland rose in his wrath and as he could not touch the Senate decided to hit at Canada and issued the famous Retaliation message of 1888. Its utter injustice was manifested by the President's own statement that :

"I fully believe the treaty just rejected by the Senate was well suited to the exigency, and that its provisions were adequate for our security in the future from vexatious incidents and for the promotion of friendly neighbourhood and intimacy without sacrificing in the least our national pride or dignity."

Nothing much was done, it is true, but the willingness was apparent. As Mr. James G. Blaine said about this time, "Is it the design of the President to make the fishing question odious by embarrassing commercial relations along 3,000 miles of frontier and to inflict upon American communities a needless, a vexatious and a perilous condition of trade?"

To strike, or talk of striking, at our

bonding trade has, indeed, long been a favourite subject with the Americans, and perhaps the only thing that prevents it is the injury which would be done them as well as ourselves. Perhaps it might be even greater in their case. But President Cleveland was defeated on seeking reelection, and in 1888 Mr. Harrison came into office.

Wm. McKinley, Jr., then tried his hand at improving the American tariff. 'Canada was not forgotten. Indeed she occupied quite a prominent place in the new bill. The interests of the farmer must be protected from Canadian competition, so a duty was placed upon eggs, the production of which certainly could not be materially affected thereby, and upon barley. The latter product was one which could only have been taxed from a principle of actual hostility. Canadian barley is infinitely superior to American, and is a necessity to the brewers, who, indeed, complained bitterly about the increased duty. But it was useless. The administration at Washington had been apparently informed, no doubt, by Mr. Erastus Wiman and others that now was the time to turn the screw, and upon this occasion at least it would be successful. The Canadian farmer was in a position of temporary dissatisfaction, and a little further restriction upon his exports to the States would assuredly make him vote for a policy which all American politicians believed to mean annexation. Mr. Wiman's statement that "a prolonged dose of McKinleyism" will bring Canada into commercial union" was generally believed, and duties were consequently increased or newly imposed upon a large number of Canadian products. Incidentally of course, the new tariff was also made to bear heavily against Great Britain. But in the Dominion, the only result apparent was an increase in our trade in 1890 and 1892 of something like \$25,000,000, and a profound conviction, growing daily deeper, that we can get on perfectly well without the United States along the whole line of commerce and politics.

It is not necessary to do more than refer briefly to the latest development of American aggressive resentment. In acquiring Alaska, the Republic now asserts that it obtained rights from Russia in the open waters of Behring Sea which it had successfully protested against Russia using when that power possessed Alaska. And, while claiming that Great