

1854, which guaranteed the advantages of trade without the disadvantages of political union; and immediately the desire for annexation disappeared.

But, say the opponents of Reciprocity :

"If we get these advantages in trade and then the Americans 'put the screw on' by threatening to put an end to the arrangement our people would be tempted to go in for annexation so as to continue the enjoyment of the benefits."

This is an extraordinary argument for men who claim that there are no benefits. It is indeed a complete surrender of the opposition to Reciprocity. Here again history proves the contrary to this statement. In 1866, when the Americans repealed the former Reciprocity Treaty there was no demand on the part of anybody in Canada for annexation, although there was a universal acknowledgment of the loss the country sustained. We had a somewhat similar example a little later on. From 1866 to 1890 the Canadian farmers sold a very large quantity of barley in the United States under a moderate duty. By the McKinley Bill, passed in 1890, the duty on barley was raised to an almost prohibitive figure. This resulted in the practical destruction of the trade. The Canadian farmer during the 17 years before 1892, sold 135,279,351 bushels of barley to the United States at an average price of 67c. In the 17 years afterwards he was able to sell only 6,908,171 bushels of barley at 42c per bushel. This was a hard blow. There is no doubt that one object of the high tariff against Canadian farm produce imposed by the McKinley Bill was to coerce Canada into annexation. The farmers, however, were not to be coerced, and notwithstanding the great financial loss, as shown by the figures above, there was absolutely no suggestion made that Canada should, for the sake of this loss, surrender her national existence and join the American Union. No.

If Reciprocity comes about and proves to be a great boon (as it is evident it will) commercially and financially to this country, a threat on the part of the American people that they would force us into annexation by repealing it would be met by a patriotic proud people like the Canadians with the same answer that was given in 1890 :

"We like your trade and we are glad to continue it, but if you refuse it we shall get along without you."