

25 per cent. better than those across the border. According to the report of J. N. Larned in 1871, made in compliance with a resolution of Congress, the difference is much greater. From numerous details as to the prices of provisions, groceries, &c., he gives the following results:

Mean ratio of prices in Ontario to prices in New York, 1 to 1.53.

Mean ratio of prices in New Brunswick to prices in Maine, 1 to 1.42.

Mean ratio of prices in the city of Quebec to prices in New York, 1 to 1.43.

The same authority gives the results as to wages of mechanics and farm-laborers, as follows:

Mean ratio of wages in Ontario to wages in New York, 1 to 1.65.

Mean ratio of wages in New Brunswick to wages in Maine, 1 to 1.78.

Mean ratio of wages in the city of Quebec to wages in New York, 1 to 2.38.

These indisputable facts disclose the reason why our markets are so eagerly sought after. Few droves or ear-loads of American horses, cattle, sheep, hogs, or poultry seek purchasers at Kingston, Toronto, Montreal or Quebec, or at any other of their military posts; but though subject to moderate duties, they come—not standing upon the order of their coming—from every quarter of the Canadas, by land and by water, to the United States, all clamorous for higher prices. The difference in wages is the widest difference of all.

The magnitude of the stake they are striving for may be understood from the fact that the year after the termination of the former reciprocity treaty the assessed value of the property of the province of Ontario alone fell off \$23,000,000. That deficiency they want restored.

The territory of British American possessions, encircling almost one-fourth of the globe, and extending from the latitude of forty-five degrees north to the open polar sea, is superficially greater than even that of the United States. Much of it, however, must remain *terra incognita*, or only frequented by the hunter and trapper, and here and there by that hardy class known as frontiersmen, but it nevertheless offers immense facilities for expansion in grain-growing and stock-raising, for which it greatly needs an outlet less remote than the markets of the Old World.

Geographical barriers must forever compel the people of British Columbia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and even Labrador, to seek and to prefer commercial relations with the United States, with or without reciprocity, and it is plain that an unrestricted access to our markets by the people of these provinces, as well as by those within the fertile Canadian basin drained by the great lakes, would rapidly augment their agricultural productions for export, stimulate their labor, and immensely increase the value of their landed estates, which, with all their personal property included, is now less than the aggregate wealth of Massachusetts. They would, however, all grow fat and "lard the lean earth" at our expense. For this result the equivalents offered to us, instead of being very large and very solid, are very thin, disputable, and wholly unsatisfactory.

The effect of all this upon our own land and its products would be reversed, as may be readily foreseen, and would be equal in the aggregate, but, being more widely distributed than their gain, the percentage of individual loss would be less than their individual gain. The price of beef or of wheat might rise in Montreal 10, 15, or 20 per cent., but the fall would be somewhat less in Chicago or Milwaukee or New York. The surplus products of the Canadian dominion flung upon our markets by shorter and cheaper transports