

in other words, it was clearly intimated that by exchanging the British Lion for the American Eagle, we could have Reciprocity in the fullest sense of the term. This continues to be the secret of the commercial policy of our neighbors towards Canada, and I desire particularly to point out that a Zollverein, or Customs Union, with Free Trade between the two countries and a Continental tariff against the world, including Great Britain, is

ONLY AN OLD ACQUAINTANCE WITH A NEW FACE.

It may be presented in the pleasing guise of "complete Reciprocity," but every intelligent person must see that what is proposed is simply a Zollverein, which is not only irreconcilable with our continued connection with Great Britain, but a sort of half way house on the road to annexation. Political union has followed commercial union in Germany, and he must be very blind who thinks it would be different on this Continent.

To discuss the commercial results of a Zollverein at length is foreign to my present purpose. That many advantages would flow to Canada therefrom is undoubted. But there is a bronze as well as a silver side to the shield. Certainly our rising manufactures would suffer under free competition with the older, larger and richer establishments of the United States, and the hopes entertained that the Maritime Provinces, with their stores of coal and iron, will, ere many years, become the New England of Canada, would be indefinitely postponed. Canadians who occasionally rush along the great through lines of American travel to New York or Chicago, naturally come back with

VERY EXAGGERATED IDEAS OF OUR NEIGHBORS' PROSPERITY.

Let them go into the country districts of the various States; let them compare northern Maine and New Hampshire with our Maritime Provinces, or Michigan, Ohio, or any other State, with Ontario; let them contrast the territories of the Great Northwest, and it will be found that our general prosperity does not compare unfavorably with theirs. So far as Ontario is concerned, I know no part of the United States in which the masses of the people are healthier, wealthier, or happier, and the immense resources of the Dominion are yet but very partially developed.

But I shall not dwell further on the commercial aspect of the question, for no high-spirited people would change their nationality as they do a garment, or weigh their patriotism solely by the almighty dollar. My protest against a Zollverein is that it is

UTTERLY ANTI-CANADIAN,

and subversive of the idea of an independent national future. Mayor Hewitt, of New York, at the recent Canadian Club dinner, described the proposition as one in which "the United States would make the tariff for Canada." This happy phrase hits off the proposed Commercial Union exactly, and how long, I ask, would Great Britain continue connected with Canada after the Frys and Ingalls and Blaines could fashion the Canadian tariff at their own sweet wills, or how long would we occupy a position of pitiful dependence on Washington legislation, alike harassing and uncertain, without finding annexation to be the only release from an intolerable position?

To discuss the details of such a policy is needless. The broad facts amply show what it means for Canada, and it is time the mist was cleared from our eyes and we looked the question straight in the face. It is time people realized that the chief difference between a Zollverein and annexation is, that one is a straight and the other a tortuous and troublous road to the same destination, and for my part, if things ever came to such a pass with Canada, I would greatly prefer the former to the latter.

But I have greatly mistaken my fellow Canadians if they are not overwhelmingly opposed to entering upon either road, and equally as overwhelmingly resolved, that when the day does come—as come some day it must—when Canada shall sever from Great Britain, the true destiny of British America will be realized, as foreshadowed by Lord Monck, in the establishment of a great Canadian nationality on the northern part of this Continent.

As this article has already extended to considerable length, I must defer reference to Imperial Federation till another occasion.

Galt, April 2nd, 1887.