

necessary to explain that so far from our people welcoming special trade arrangements with the United States, there was, as I say, a feeling of indifference, if not of hostility. It was necessary, to explain this attitude, to go back to our treaty relations with the United States since 1783, and to shortly trace the difficulties we had met with in one treaty after the other. I shall not trouble you with a discussion of anything before the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854, but I think to understand the arguments, pro and con, it is necessary to shortly review our history, for the last sixty years in Canada.

Any one reading the state papers just after the cutting off of the Colonial Preference in the markets of the Mother Country will be struck by the extreme stress and poverty and backwardness of the Canadian provinces at that time. Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario were all feeling the loss of the fostering Preference, and Lord Elgin, then Governor-General, turned to the United States in order to endeavour to find market for practically all we had to sell at that time, namely, natural products. The treaty embraced practically all these, such as grain animals, poultry, cheese, lumber, flour, fruits, eggs, hides, breadstuffs, fish, butter, furs, etc. This treaty lasted from 1854 to 1866. Under it the exports from Canada jumped from two millions to over forty millions, or twenty times, and to shew the enormous benefit that our country received at that time it is only necessary to state that in 1887 the total exports were thirty-seven millions, or twelve per cent. less twenty-one years after Confederation than they were at Confederation, notwithstanding the fact of the enormous expansion to the south, the growth of railway and steamship facilities, and the wonderful influx of consumers from the