

BERLIN, Dec. 14.—Germany will open negotiations for a commercial treaty with the Netherlands in January.

LONDON, Dec. 14.—A dispatch to the *Times* from Vienna says negotiations are in progress with Spain looking to her joining the Zollverein in January.

The free trader who objects because their protection is higher than ours has only to go to Windsor and Detroit to see that a lower tariff in a small country means greater cost to the consumer than a much higher tariff in a very large and growing community. With the exception of woollens, silks and other imported luxuries, he will find that manufactured articles are much cheaper in Detroit than in Windsor, and that the smuggling is ten-fold greater from Detroit than to it. In fact the trade returns ought to convince him that we do not import \$24,000,000 worth of manufactured goods from a country where they are dearer and in addition pay the duty and freight.

It is objected that we could not have reciprocity because we could not raise a revenue. It is possible that temporarily we would have to adopt some other system in addition to the collection of duty on goods imported from countries other than the United States. But suppose we had. What harm would that do? We could hardly adopt a more wasteful or unsatisfactory system than the present. *But the first way to provide a revenue is to make people prosperous.* If unrestricted reciprocity would mean expansion of trade, increase of population, the rapid filling up of our North-west, then it would provide a revenue. If our conditions of growth in wealth and purchasing power were as great as that of our neighbors we could do just what they are doing. Out of the moneys received by way of duty on imports from foreign countries they have not only been able to pay their way but have, in fifteen years, paid off two-thirds of their great war debt. The money required for Government has to be paid any way, and the manner of paying it is not half so important as the ability to pay without hardship. The solution we want is found by increasing the prosperity and wealth of our people.

It is not pleasant in sentiment to enter into a bargain which seems to be to the disadvantage of the mother country, but, if it is vital to our prosperity to make that bargain, Canada's interest must and should prevail. But is not the disadvantage only seeming? England's export trade is some £300,000,000; of this she sends us £8,000,000.

She sent to the United States in 1885.....	£31,000,000
1886.....	37,000,000
1887.....	40,000,000
1888.....	41,000,000

That is to say her increased trade with that country in three years exceeded her whole trade with us by £2,000,000.

She sends to India.....	£31,000,000
To Australasia.....	23,000,000