

Opponents of reciprocity talk of trade with the United States as if it were some new and dangerous experiment. American trade is not an experiment but an experience. There never has been a time in the history of Canada when a large part of our trade was not with the United States.

In 1879 the National Policy was established, with the design of making Canada commercially and industrially independent. In 1888, long after that policy had been in operation our trade with the United States was twelve millions more than our trade with Great Britain. In 1896, the last year of the Conservative regime, our trade with the United States was three and a half millions more than our trade with Great Britain.

To do them justice, the authors of the N. P. had no such foolish notion as to shut off our trade with the United States. Their idea was that by increasing our own tariff, we could force our neighbors to give us better terms. Sir John Macdonald's resolution moved in 1878, declared that the N. P. would "greatly tend to procure for this country, eventually a reciprocity of trade." The National Policy tariff contained an offer of reciprocity in farm products. Its authors hoped to be able to make a reciprocity agreement with the United States such as Mr. Fielding and Mr. Paterson have made.

The Conservatives, the authors of the N. P. had no intention of turning their backs on American trade. The Liberals, the authors of the British preference, had no such intention. What the Liberals said in 1897 to the United States was not "we will not trade with you," but "we are not dependent upon your trade." As a matter of fact, our trade with the United States has gone on increasing along with our British trade. To-day it is \$336,000,000—half our trade with the world, and three times more than it was in 1897. Has annexation sentiment increased during that time? Quite the contrary. It is a matter of common experience that annexation sentiment has declined and almost disappeared in the last fifteen or twenty years. Our hearts do not go with our trade.

If we examine the trade returns we find that all classes of the community trade freely with the United States, except the farmer and the fishermen; all but the farmer and the fishermen sell a large proportion of their products in the