

with. These notes were all of the same import, and were all signed by Mr. Blaine. That to the Minister of Venezuela read as follows:—

I am directed by the President to again bring to your attention the provisions of the Tariff Law of the Congress of the United States approved October 1, 1890, in which provision was made for the admission into the United States, free of all duty, of the following articles to wit: All sugars not above No. 16 Dutch standard in color, molasses, coffee, tea and hides. In Section 3 of this law, it is declared that these remissions of duty were made with a view to secure reciprocal trade with countries producing those articles; and it provided that on and after the first day of January 1892, whenever, and so often as the President shall be satisfied that the government of any country producing and exporting sugar, molasses, coffee, tea and hides, or any of such articles, imposes duties or other exactions upon the agricultural or other products of the United States which, in view of the free introduction of such sugar, molasses, coffee, tea and hides into the United States, he may deem to be reciprocally unequal and unreasonable, he shall have the power and it shall be his duty to suspend, by proclamation to that effect, the provisions of this act relating to the free introduction of such sugar, molasses, coffee, tea and hides, the production of such country, for such time as he shall deem just; and in such case, and during such suspension, duties shall be levied, collected and paid upon sugar, molasses, coffee, tea and hides, the product of or exported from such designated country, at the rates set forth in said Section 3.

I am further directed by the President to inform you that in view of the free introduction into the United States of the articles named, the product of Venezuela, he deems the duties imposed upon the agricultural and other products of the United States on their introduction into Venezuela, to be reciprocally unequal and unreasonable, and that unless on or before the fifteenth day of March next, some satisfactory commercial arrangement is entered into between the Government of the United States and the Government of Venezuela, or unless some action is taken by the latter Government, whereby the unequal and unreasonable state of the trade relations between the two countries is removed, the President will, on the date last named, issue his proclamation suspending the provisions of the tariff law cited relating to the free introduction of sugar, molasses, coffee, tea and hides, the production of Venezuela, and during such suspension the duties set forth in Section 3 of said law shall be levied, collected and paid upon sugar, molasses, coffee, tea and hides, the product of or exported from Venezuela.

In asking you to transmit to your Government the foregoing information I desire to repeat the assurance which has been given to you and your Government at various times since the enactment of the law cited, of the earnest desire of this Government to maintain with Venezuela the most intimate and friendly trade relations, and to express the hope that you may yet be empowered by your Government to enter with me upon a commercial arrangement reciprocally equal and mutually advantageous.

This is retaliation pure and simple, and an exhibition of power on the part of a strong nation, which the weaker nations dare not disregard; and it is in line with the action of this strong nation in bullying Canada to remove the export duty on saw-logs. As we have before argued, the United States has the right to practice such retaliation, and it is only a question of ability to withstand it with the weaker nations interested. No doubt if these latter could find other markets for their products they would disregard the threat of exclusion from the American market, but unfortunately for them they have no other market, and they are forced to submit. In other words they are obliged to allow the United States to dictate their tariff

laws for them. It is a good thing to possess the strength of a giant, but it is cowardly to use it in oppressing the weak and helpless.

In considering the situation from the Canadian standpoint, we discover that in some respects the United States stands in its relation to us, as the South American States stand in their relation to it. The position may not be so exaggerated, for with the South American States they are obliged to accept the situation for the sake of making any sales at all of their sugar, molasses, coffee, tea and hides; while with the United States their pine forests are fast being denuded of their timber, and much of their dependence for occupation for their saw-mill industry, especially in Michigan, is upon Canada for saw logs; and it is impossible for the American navy to be armored in the most effective manner without the nickel which they can obtain only from Canada. While depending so largely upon Canada for pine saw-logs, with characteristic selfishness, our American friends have made it virtually impossible for Canada to send them any pine lumber, and what little we do send them is at the sacrifice of a much needed revenue arising from an export duty on saw-logs. They squeezed us into removing that duty, and now we find that we cannot export to the United States any but our very best and finest lumber; that we cannot export any of the cheaper grades at all, and that hundreds of Canadian saw-mills are idle for lack of this trade, while the saw logs cut in their very vicinity are being carried past them to give occupation to American mills and American workmen. If our American friends could possibly have done without these logs—if their own forests were not well nigh exhausted, and if they could have obtained their logs from any other source on as favourable terms, perhaps it might have been well for us to accede to their demands; but even this would have been a questionable policy. We were deriving a large revenue from the export duty, and our Canadian saw-mills were busy cutting lumber for the American market. On the demand of the retaliatory feature of the McKinley tariff, we removed that duty and we shut down our saw-mills, throwing thousands of Canadian workmen into idleness, or forcing them to follow their business to the United States where they were then forced to become citizens. If the Canadian Government had responded to the demand to remove the export duty by doubling it, the American people would have had to pay the higher duty provided for by the McKinley tariff, and the American saw-mill men would also have had to pay the higher duty into the Dominion treasury if they desired to keep their mills in operation. Under these circumstances the American consumers of lumber would have found themselves in the same fix from the operation of the retaliatory feature of their beloved McKinley tariff, that the American brewers and malsters now find themselves from the imposition of thirty cents per bushel on Canadian barley.

So too as regards nickel. The production of nickel in the United States was never greater than about a hundred tons per year, and the requirements of the mint for the manufacture of subsidiary coin, and of the art's necessitated importations in addition to the home production of about 150 tons per year. Under the circumstances the tariff duty of fifteen cents per pound—\$300 per ton was all right, and under it, and in view of the greater imports, every nerve was strained to develop the American nickel industry; but even the stimulus of a very