

Then we have a despatch from New York to this effect:

New York, Feb. 22.

"The annexation sentiment, as the result of the proposed reciprocity agreement with Canada, continues to manifest itself throughout the country. Resolutions have been introduced in the Legislature of North Dakota calling on the North Dakota members in Congress to use the influence to bring about peaceable annexation with Canada's representatives. Mr. Lortie, a member of the Lower House of the North Dakota Legislature, offered a resolution which declared that the Canadian-American reciprocity agreement shows conclusively that the two countries have interests in common and that the people of the two nations can best be served under the same Government.

"These resolutions indicate how the feeling is extending that reciprocity must lead to annexation, and how people are beginning to bring pressure to bear upon Washington. If this active annexation propaganda proceeds, while action on the reciprocity agreement is still pending, it does not require a vivid imagination to realize how it will grow if reciprocity becomes an accomplished fact."

Then we have also the Washington Star, from which I will just read the last two paragraphs dealing with this same question of annexation:

"But the national welfare of both countries will undoubtedly be promoted by the most intimate commercial reciprocity. In time the thoughts of the Canadians may turn towards annexation as the most to be desired of all political boons. The isolation and humiliation of the colonial position will not be forever endurable. Meanwhile, full reciprocity in exchange of citizens and products and steady Americanization."

Is there any man of the most ordinary intelligence, Mr. Speaker, who will stand up in this or any legislative body, and say that any conclusion but one is possible in face of the proofs which I have brought here as to the intention, the desire and the object of these gentlemen with regard to this reciprocity pact? (Applause.)

WHAT EDWARD BLAKE THOUGHT OF RECIPROCITY.

Let me now quote a few words from Mr. Edward Blake, who, speaking with reference to this question, says:

"Our hopes and our fears alike would draw one way. We would then indeed be 'looking to Washington.' Nor is there any fair comparison in this aspect between the new and the old reciprocal arrangements.

"The treaty once made, the vantage ground it gave would naturally be used for the accomplishment of its ulterior purpose, and this political end would be a great factor in the consideration by the States of Canadian views upon changes in the joint tariff, or as to the maintenance or termination of the treaty."