

competition between themselves, by the water routes through the great lakes and the canals, and finally by the stringent provisions of the Interstate Commerce Law, itself.

In discussing other points, I have already touched upon the great duty of the government to look to the national defence. Neither Mr. Wiman nor any other friend of his measure, has set up the pretence that a Commercial Union would provide adequately for the protection of our northern frontier in case of war with England. If Canada were an independent power or the Millennium had come, such a union might do much to render war improbable, and hence to defer the work and expense of protecting our borders from invasion, but the Millennium is not yet at hand and Canada is not an independent power. She cannot even enter into a Commercial Union without the express permission of the suzerain nation which controls her. She would not dare understate it against the veto of Her Britannic Majesty's Government! Canada alone, or even Canada aided by the entire confederation of which she is a part, can give us but little concern for our safety or progress, but the Dominion of Canada, as an integral part of the world-encircling British Empire—the richest, the most aggressive and most grasping empire that has ever existed, is altogether a different and a greater thing. War with the latter is always possible. It may break out any day, even without the agency, concurrence or permission of any British dependency and it behooves us to make timely preparation against that danger and its consequences. When it is remembered that in every great emergency which has overtaken us since the peace of Paris was signed in 1763, the arbitrary will, the crafty diplomacy, the bottomless purse, or the mailed hand of Great Britain has made itself felt, if it has not turned the scale against us, no sensible reflecting man can contend that Commercial Union could properly provide for the safety of our exposed and defenceless borders. Its most striking effect would be to increase the wealth and population and strengthen the