

is one upon which our people have generally been reluctant to let in the light of day. In the possible political result of the adoption of such a policy, its economical bearings have been allowed to be lost sight of. This is the more unwise as the commercial effect of any policy is bound to be one of the most important elements in determining what will be its ultimate political influence. And one of the consequences of this timidity has been to defeat the very object sought to be attained, as many tacitly assume that our real economic advantage lies in a commercial union, while objections to it are of a purely sentimental nature. If this be the case, it will be well to know it; but it cannot be well from sheer indifference to admit a conflict between our predilections and our interests in the matter.

In the present state of public opinion in the United States, and so long as their existing fiscal system prevails, a commercial union with that country must be formed by our adopting against all other countries their high rate of duties on imports. We shall still be able, as they are now, to dispose of our exports in Europe, and especially in free trade countries like England; but we shall not be able to buy, except to a limited extent. The problem, therefore, resolves itself into this: Will the American market for our exports compensate for the damage that a commercial union would do to our trade with all the rest of the world?

Let us in the first place look at the value to us of the United States market at the present time. The States stand second on the list of the countries, to which our exports are sent. In 1879, our exports to the United Kingdom were about \$36,000,000; to the United States, \$24,000,000; and to the rest of the world, \$8,000,000, making a total of \$68,000,000. The exports to the United States are to be classified thus:

Agricultural produce	\$3,600,000
Animals and their produce	4,600,000
Produce of the forest	4,600,000
Produce of the mine	2,700,000
Produce of the fisheries	2,000,000
Manufactures	1,200,000

The foregoing table shows that the the great bulk of our exports to United States consists of raw products, these forming \$22,800,000 of the total. The following table furnishes a more detailed statement of the chief articles that go to make up these exports to the United States, together with the total amount of our exports of these articles to all countries:—

Free to U. S. market:		To U. S.	Total Exp's.
Commodities.			
Produce of the fisheries		\$2,000,000	\$7,000,000
Gold from British Columbia		944,000	944,000
Produce of the forest		876,000	see below.
Eggs		554,000	574,000
		<u>\$4,374,000</u>	
Dutiable to U. S.:			
Barley		\$4,650,000	\$4,789,000
Produce of the forest		3,724,000	13,700,000
Wheat		1,490,000	6,275,000
Horses		1,181,000	1,377,000
Potatoes		1,134,000	1,261,000
Coal		784,000	937,000
Sheep		630,000	988,000
Wool		548,000	692,000
Undressed furs		453,000	1,190,000
Malt		423,000	423,000
Horned cattle		404,000	2,100,000
		<u>\$19,775,000</u>	<u>\$42,250,000</u>
Manufactures:			
1. The produce of Canada:			
Ironware	\$104,000		\$138,000
Furniture	87,000		96,000
Other woodware	60,000		205,000
Spirits	80,000		99,000
	<u>\$331,000</u>		<u>\$538,000</u>
2. Not the produce of Canada:			
Sugar	\$66,000		\$69,000
Spirits	52,000		78,000
Ironware	33,000		54,000
	<u>\$482,000</u>		<u>\$739,000</u>
	U. S.	Total.	
Total exports	\$24,000,000	\$68,000,000	
Total manufactured exports	1,200,000	3,200,000	
Manufactures of Canadian produce alone	882,000	2,700,000	