

Our commercial interests are identical, and the fact of our having different political arrangements should not make trade between us less profitable.

Now-a-days when there is such keen competition in every branch of the iron and steel business,—and whenever there is a period of depression we hear complaints that there is so little margin of profit,—the question of cheap ores becomes of vital importance.

While every device is resorted to in modern furnaces to cheapen the cost of production, the most important question of cheap ores appears to have been somewhat overlooked.

Our Canadian Bessemer ores are so favourably situated that they could be delivered to Pittsburgh and many furnaces in Pennsylvania much cheaper than other ores of the same quality if there was no duty.

Under the present tariff our mines remain undeveloped, while on the other hand the furnaces are anxiously seeking cheap ores.

If the duty was removed this trade would find its natural channel, to the great benefit of the United States furnaces and of our mines.

#### ABSURDITY OF OUR PRESENT TRADE RELATIONS.

Let any unprejudiced man of common sense, either American or Canadian, stand before a map of North America, and, after carefully tracing the boundary line between us, say why the inhabitants of this great continent, who are of the same race, the same language, the same religion, and who have the same interests, should interpose hostile tariffs against each other. Did nature ever intend that artificial barriers should be placed where only an imaginary line separates us? I would suggest that the Commercial Union Club hang on its walls a map of North America, on which there should be a black line, drawn broad and deep along the boundary line between Canada and the United States, so that the absurdity may clearly appear of trying to keep apart two portions of the same continent which nature intended to be commercially one. Then if you like, run a red line round the outside boundary of both showing the vastness of the country we should have to trade in were the barriers thrown down, and on the heading of the map place this motto, which should also be the motto of our Club, "Let us have free trade with our own continent, our natural market!"