

British North America more loyal or more contented with British institutions then during the period of the old reciprocity treaty. It was in the very midst of that period that His late Majesty King Edward, then Prince of Wales, visited British North America and received everywhere such splendid evidence of the loyalty and devotion of our people. Sir John Macdonald, Sir Charles Tupper, Sir John Thompson, Mr. Foster and other public men of the Conservative party were not deemed disloyal when they laboured without success to obtain a reciprocal trade arrangement with the United States. It will be difficult to persuade anybody that the Canadian Ministers of to-day are disloyal when they have carried on reciprocity negotiations which have been crowned with the success that was denied to their predecessors. No Canadian who is trading to-day with citizens of the United States, in money or in merchandize, feels that he thereby in any way compromises himself as a loyal citizen of Canada and a loyal subject of the King, nor will any feeling of that kind be experienced by other citizens of Canada who will avail themselves of the larger opportunities of trade which we believe will be opened up to them by the reciprocity agreement. The pretence that the Canadian farmer, fisherman or lumberman who sells his products in the United States impairs his loyalty to His Majesty is an insult to loyal Canadians and will, I feel sure, be resented by them.

PEACE AND GOODWILL.

Even if we desired to do so, we could not be indifferent to our commercial relations with the people of the neighbouring Republic. Touching each other as the two countries do along a border line of thousands of miles, the people of both should always desire the best relations in commercial and all other affairs. Irresponsible speakers and writers of either nation may feel free to indulge in foolish and, too often, offensive utterances concerning the other. But responsible