

Both parties in Canada were and for long continued to be anxious for Reciprocity to be renewed: and it was not till after statesmen of both parties had been received with coldness and their approaches rejected, sometimes with scant courtesy, that the project was looked upon as hopeless, and Canada reconciled herself to work out her destiny without the supposed advantage of friendly and favourable trade relations with the more numerous people to the South. One instance of attempt on Canada's part may be specifically referred to.

George Brown, one of the two most noted men and most powerful politicians in Canada, had as early as 1863 urged the Canadian Government to prepare for the renewal of the treaty. He considered the arrangement beneficial for both countries. Negotiations failed in 1866, and when the Treaty of Washington was negotiated in 1871, Sir John A. Macdonald made another vigorous attempt to procure Reciprocity. Upon the defeat of the Macdonald administration, the new Mackenzie government in 1874 requested Mr. Brown to make another effort (he had been informed that there was a feeling, if not a movement, at Washington favourable to more amicable trade relations).

An Imperial Commission issued in March (1874) appointing the British Ambassador at Washington, Sir Edward Thornton, and Mr. Brown Commissioners to negotiate a treaty of fisheries and commerce with the United States. A treaty was signed which approached unrestricted reciprocity, but this being sent to the Senate for confirmation and by that body referred to the Foreign Relations Committee, never was reported, and so failed to come into operation.

This result, coupled with the fate of several treaties between Britain and the United States, seems to indicate that it is not unwise to carry out international agreements to which the United States is a party, by concurrent legislation rather than by treaty.