

Jamaica newspapers and be there discussed, I think it desirable to supplement its contents with a few further remarks, from which, beyond what was absolutely necessary, I abstained at the outset, lest they might prejudice the efforts then started for effecting a Reciprocity Treaty with the United States of America on behalf of the British West Indian Colonies, but in which arrangements for the reasons I have already assigned, Jamaica could not be expected to concur.

It is clear that in rejecting the proposal for Canadian Confederation little was known of its merits, and it is to be deplored that a more suspensory resolution was not adopted. I am, however, induced to my present course because I believe the telegraphic message from Lord Derby, laid before the Council on 20th October, was despatched entirely in the interest of the larger Sugar Colonies, and is based on recognised fallacies calculated to mislead Jamaica people, tending not only to engender hopes that have no reasonable foundation, but to divert their attention from the more practical and desirable path exceptionally open to them. I have hitherto endeavored to set out the indisputable benefits associated with Confederation, and it now only remains to place against them the drawbacks to any Reciprocity Treaty, and the utter hopelessness of such a convention being accepted by the American Government with the limited and contracted margins affirmed by the English Government.

Reciprocity implies two essential conditions; first the mutual enjoyment of benefits never before possessed, and next that those benefits, though differing in character, should be equal in importance and indetical in value.

Now where is the novelty, or where the advantage to accrue to the United States in ceding to them by Treaty the monopoly of certain food supplies which they have already long held and controlled by reason of natural advantages? Here at the very outset the case breaks down, but the collapse is more marked and overwhelming when the mutual considerations are weighed.

For the easier and less complicated treatment of this portion of the subject I confine myself, as hitherto, to the three larger producing Colonies. Their entire revenue from Customs department in 1882 was £541,100 but this includes the duties on spirits, very large imports of rice, and a few other articles not produced in America, and if the number to be affected by reciprocity is brought within the narrow confines presented in Lord Derby's message to the Governor of Jamaica, then the total amount of Revenue to be effaced in favor of American productions would fall considerably under £200,000, the rates of duties in those dependencies being largely under those assessed in Jamaica.