

Bole handed the country over to the United States. Oland, who was then President, regarded the property as stolen goods and declined the offer, which, however, accepted by President McKinley and his party, and sugar trust recovered its loss by the annexation of islands.

In 1891 the United States entered into another reciprocity arrangement with Spain in behalf of Cuba, Porto Rico, and sugar again formed an important subject of trade and the agreement had the same political result. So far as the people of the United States were concerned their motives were generally disinterested and were based on real sympathy with the Cubans, but at the back of the negotiation selfish interests were playing upon the strings which evoked those sympathies. From the tidal wave of travel and agents who invaded the islands after the convention came the back-wash of tales of Spanish cruelty which excited United States public opinion, and brought on war. It should be noted that this arrangement with Spain was an "agreement," not a "treaty."

The direct result of these adventures, which mocked the wisdom of the founders of the republic, was that the United States was committed by force of new relations to its new policy of naval expansion. It is not easy to appreciate what is now happening around us. Within ten years the naval and military expenditure of the United States has doubled and that nation pays out over \$20,000,000 per annum, or two-thirds of its total income, upon armaments and on pensions arising out of wars in recent years. Since the war with Spain the United States has spent \$2,192,000,000 on war preparations, and when President Taft is talking of peace his country's naval appropriations for the current year are greater than ever.

#### WARSHIPS ON THE LAKES.

It is a fact of uncomfortable interest to many in Canada that while the Rush-Bagot agreement is unannulled there are now ten vessels on the United States side of the Great Lakes capable of use for war purposes. The Rush-Bagot agreement, signed in 1817 between Great Britain and the United States, provided that each nation should limit the number of war vessels on the Great Lakes to four, the size of each vessel to be not more than one hundred tons, and the armament not more than one eighteen-pound gun each.