

## Political Tensions

There was considerable tension for a time after the rebellion of 1837, occasioned by the raids into Canada by followers of William Lyon Mackenzie, the leader of the uprising in Upper Canada who had fled into the United States. Neither country wanted war, and the affair was soon brought to a close.

During the sixties, first the American Civil War produced several border incidents in two or three raids which were abortive and unorganized. Again, the Irish nationalist Fenian raids into Canada in 1866 caused Canadian apprehension. In neither case did these represent an official aggressive U.S. policy. Nevertheless, the desire for greater security was an important factor in the movement toward confederation in the several Canadian provinces.

The cancellation by the United States in 1866 of the reciprocal trade treaty of 1854 provided a further spur to united action north of the boundary. (It was not until 1935 that the subsequent tariff wall between Canada and the United States was partially lowered).

After Confederation in 1867, the "manifest destiny" theory (of the inevitability of American control of the entire continent) proclaimed by certain politicians in the United States continued to fan Canadian fears for some time. Senator Sherman in 1888 said: "Our whole history since the conquest of Canada by Great Britain in 1763 has been a continuous warning that we cannot be at peace with each other except by political as well as commercial union.....it will come by the logic of the situation."

Annexation won some support within Canada itself. But it was finished as a real issue with the decline of the movement for commercial union led by Goldwin Smith at the close of the century. It has since been recognized in both countries that Canada would remain an independent nation. The bogey of annexation, however, persisted long enough to play an important part in determining the Canadian refusal to accept the renewal of reciprocity offered by the United States in 1911.

## A New Era

The tradition of peaceful negotiation narrowed the areas of disagreement in questions of fisheries, transportation and communication. The creation of the International Joint Commission in 1909 was an important milestone in the history of Canadian-United States relations. For the first time, North American questions were to be settled by direct negotiations between representatives of the two countries.

This was a significant step in the development of Canada's sovereignty: previously, British diplomats had acted on Canada's behalf--sometimes with Canadian advisers. The International Joint Commission, with equal Canadian and United States representation, was empowered to investigate any questions or matters of difference involving the governments or citizens of Canada and the United States.