

BIGGER MARKETS BETTER CONDITIONS

That Canadian loyalty and patriotism will be destroyed or weakened by reciprocity with the United States is a favorite argument of the opponents of enlarged trade. The fairer and more sensible of them do not charge the friends of reciprocity with traitorous designs; but they say that reciprocity will naturally lead toward political union. Beginning as loyal and patriotic men, our farmers will go on quite innocently buying American ploughs and selling barley to American buyers; until suddenly, one fine morning, they will wake up and find themselves annexationists.

The argument is flatly denied by experience. Half our trade is done, and for many years has been done, with the United States. If our hearts had gone with our trade we should have been annexed sixty years ago. The simple fact is that our hearts do not go with our trade. A man no more thinks of becoming a Yankee because he trades with a Yankee than he thinks of changing his religion or his party politics for the same reason. How ridiculous it would sound to say that a Methodist must not sell to a Presbyterian for fear of turning Presbyterian; or that a Tory must not buy from a Grit for fear of turning Grit.

Study the teaching of experience. Between 1854 and 1866 we had reciprocity with the United States. A very large proportion of our trade was done with that country, and we were largely dependent on that trade, for we had not the grip on the home market or the English market that we have to-day. But reciprocity and American trade did not turn us into annexationists. There was an annexation movement in Canada in 1849, five years before the treaty, but there is no record of any such movement between 1854 and 1866.