

The development of the Dominion, especially the Canadian West, in the last very years, is gratifying; but it would have been more extensive had there been free trade relations with the U. S. American capital and American citizens would go into the West even more freely than at present if they felt that they were not cutting themselves off unmercifully from their old associations; and a rapid development of the Canadian West would mean a very great appreciation in the value of the 12,000,000 of acres of Western lands, which the C.P.R. still holds. Unrestricted Reciprocity would add 60,000,000 to the present value of the C.P.R.'s Western lands and there would also be a corresponding increase in the value of the land holdings of the Great Northern and the G.T.P.

The motto of the negative is: Do not rush, go slow; we are doing well enough; let things alone. But our motto should be: When you are doing well enough, let things alone unless you can do better. And Canada can do better. And, gentlemen, it is immaterial to Canada how great advantages would accrue to the U. S. from a treaty of Unrestricted Reciprocity since Canada would also greatly benefit by it.

Would Unrestricted Reciprocity ruin the British Preference? No. As food products do not come from Great Britain, they have no relation to the Preference. Canada cannot do any more than give free entrance to all British goods, and this she is willing to do. Last year Great Britain sent us \$6,000,000 worth of goods, the U. S. sent us not less than \$32,000,000. England sends us very little except manufactured goods, and everyone knows that the majority of our imports have come, and, under almost any imaginable tariff conditions, will continue to come, from the United States.

It is said that Unrestricted Reciprocity would weaken the tie that binds Canada to the Empire as one of its members. There is no foundation for this statement. Goods will go to Great Britain as they have gone before; goods will come from Great Britain as they have come before. Also it is claimed that Unrestricted Reciprocity would inevitably weaken the attachment of Canadians to the Mother Country. This is likewise without foundation. As to our attachment to the Mother Country, if it would be imperilled by friendly trade relations with the United States, and if such relations would create a sentiment in favour of annexation, then I say that our attachment cannot be very strong.