

and religious differences between the two peoples; and while Mexicans may be desirous of seeing their country keep up with the procession of energetic Nineteenth Century nations, they do not propose to swap off their prospects of commercial and industrial independence to become the slaughter ground of American manufacturers. They may not be thoroughly acquainted with the English language, but they are not slow to observe that the reciprocity that the Americans are after is of a jug-handled description, with the handle on the wrong side for them. This fact was brought home to them very forcibly recently when Secretary of the Treasury Windom ruled adversely to their ideas of the law and justice, regarding the admission of Mexican argentiferous lead ores into the United States.

These Mexicans have a way of their own in resenting an injury; and the method they adopted in this instance was to retaliate by imposing heavy duties upon certain lines of American produce; a few specimens being as follows: Wheat, \$1.20 a bushel; corn, 28 cents a bushel; cattle, \$3 a head; hogs, \$2.25 a head; horses, \$20 a head, and manufactures of wood \$13 per hundred pounds. These duties seem to be prohibitive and to shut out American merchandise from the Mexican market. A Western sash and door manufacturer complains to his member of Congress that under this duty a door that he can sell at his factory for \$1.50 cannot be laid down in the City of Mexico, duty paid, for less than \$6.75. This is rough on the Western manufacturer, but it must be remembered that the average Mexican does not have much use for doors anyway, and that what wheat he has to sell readily brings him \$1.25 a bushel, which would mean a big profit to the Western farmer if he could run his wheat into Mexico free under reciprocity.

Mexico is not the only country with which the Americans desire reciprocity and for the same reasons. They are just dying for reciprocity with Canada, but it will eventuate no sooner to the north than to the south of them. Canada, unlike Mexico, is not distinguished from the United States by racial or religious peculiarities; nor is it a semi-tropical country. There are many marked and distinguishing features in common between Canada and the United States, among the most important being that indomitable energy and perseverance that has made the one the great and powerful nation it is, and which are rapidly placing the other in a similar position. It may be said that as between the United States and Mexico their interests lie in longitudinal lines, which as regards Canada and the United States, their interests lie parallel and in latitudinous lines. It may be that Mexico will never achieve even a tithe of the industrial independence now held by Canada; and if she never does, there is no reason why, if she has to depend upon other nations for many of her manufactured products, a very large part of her demands should not be met from the United States. But this can never be the case with Canada. In this country we have every element of greatness; and the difference in this greatness as between Canada and the United States is of quantity only—not quality. Whatever has tended to make the one country great and independent will as certainly make the other equally so. Whatever may tend to repress our elements of greatness must be repressed. There can be no strong objections urged against a reciprocity in natural products between Canada and the United States, but there is every objection to be urged in

making reciprocity unrestricted. If our American neighbors have extensive manufacturing plants with which they may be able to supply other markets than their own with their products, Canadians desire the prevalence of a similar condition here; but the way to prevent this is to allow our neighbors to use ours as a slaughter market for their overproduction.

Canadians are too proud and too self-reliant to allow Americans, or any other people, to do for us what we ought and can do for ourselves. Canada is not Mexico.

#### LAWS THAT OPPRESS CANADA.

It is understood that the Imperial Government will disallow the Canadian Copyright Act, recently passed by the Dominion Government. This Act was clearly within the spirit of the law that called the Dominion of Canada into existence, and bestowed upon her the right to manage her own internal affairs as she pleased. This Dominion has always been loyal to the Mother Country, and she desires to maintain towards her the most amicable and kindly relations; but the disallowance of this Act is not calculated to increase our love or to strengthen our affection for a Government that thus strikes directly at one of the privileges that we ought to enjoy. The disallowance is in the interests of both British and American publishers, and it directly antagonizes the interests of Canadian publishers. This Act is a legitimate and proper development of our National Policy, and we are as much entitled to legislate in this direction, and to have our copyright laws sustained as we are to impose tariff duties against importations of British merchandise. British owners of copyrights refuse to make any arrangements with Canadian publishers whereby their books may be manufactured in this country, preferring rather to include Canada with the United States in any arrangement they may make with American publishers for the production of their books. This leaves Canada at the mercy of American publishers; and we observe the strange anomaly of Canadians being prevented from publishing British copyrighted books, while at the same time the market is flooded with cheap reproductions of the same issued from the United States.

This sort of thing is becoming exceedingly monotonous, and it is not at all strange that Canada is becoming very tired of it. We should be allowed to make all our own laws, or the entire privilege should be taken from us. Many of our most valuable interests are most unaccountably held in abeyance by the Imperial Government, without any good or satisfactory reason being given therefor, and to the great discouragement of Canadian industrial enterprise. Year after year Canadian vessels with Canadian crews have been arrested on the high seas and despoiled of their cargoes by the armed cruisers of a not over friendly nation; and although public sentiment and the laws of nations are clearly against such doings, Canada is helpless to redress the wrongs of her people, and the Imperial Government, which is supposed to protect British rights all the world over, stands supinely by and raises not even a faint remonstrance in our behalf. Time was when things were not so. Time was when the floating of a British flag over a vessel, particularly on the high seas, meant protection to both vessel, cargo and crew. Alas, this is not so now.