

mon satisfaction, except one which will enable us to dispense with all discussion of the comparative value of the concessions required on each side.

A final objection is that no Reciprocity Treaty could be framed which would put an end to the necessity of maintaining a Customs frontier on our common border. So long as the two countries maintain different tariffs of import duties on their respective seaboards, that one which imposes the higher duties will have to maintain such a frontier to prevent smuggling across the border. And if, as is not unlikely, each Tariff should be found to impose higher duties than the other upon some articles, that circumstance would compel its maintenance by both, though perhaps at a cost far greater than the entire revenue from duties.

This fact of itself seems to point to the proper, the only feasible solution of our mutual difficulties. I mean a Commercial Union of the Dominion and the United States. If the two countries had a common tariff of duties, with the seaboard line as the only Customs frontier, and a distribution of Custom-house receipts proportional to population, or upon some other just basis, we could then extend to each other all the commercial privileges enjoyed by our respective populations, and leave all lesser questions to settle themselves. Such an arrangement, I believe, would not be effected on our side by any mere partisan vote, but would be accepted by our whole people as a finality, and carried by universal consent. It would leave no Fisheries Question to settle; it would throw open our Coasting Trade to the ship-building communities of the Lower Provinces; it would remove that line of demarcation, across which capital now refuses to flow Northward, but across which emigration continues Southward. Without trenching on the field of politics, it would make us one people in the great work of developing the resources of a new Continent, and building up free, prosperous and happy communities in a new world.

Some few persons on both sides the border maintain