

sectionalism. In the United States Congress, as now constituted, there is some sectionalism, too much for the good of the country, but underlying it all there is a feeling of pride in the Republic and a desire to see it prosper. Few of the members are entirely lacking in patriotism; the most selfish will at times be stirred by national enthusiasm. There would be no such unity of sentiment in a Canadian-American parliament. Its very existence would mean a sacrifice of national spirit to the desire for gain, and every member's heart would be in his own pocket. But, even if such a parliament could settle the tariff question to the satisfaction of both nations, there would be other causes of dissatisfaction. Unless there was a common executive as well as a common parliament, the Canadian and American customs officials would interpret the customs act differently, and constant disputes would arise between the importers of the two countries, causing much bitterness of feeling. The two nations trading so freely with each other, a common currency would be necessary, the banking systems must be assimilated, and the laws regulating railways must be the same in both countries. Every day some new cause of difference would arise, necessitating the delegation of more extensive powers to the Canadian-American parliament, until the United States Congress and the parliament at Ottawa would alike fall into a state of "innocuous desuetude." No doubt the ultimate outcome of the liaison would be annexation, but in the meantime the government of both countries would be disorganized, and the anarchists might arrange matters to please themselves. If a short period of semi-anarchy would lead to the peaceable annexation of the great Dominion of Canada with its wealth of natural resources it might be worth while. But it would not lead to peaceable annexation. Annexation probably would be brought about: under such circumstances it would be almost as necessary to the preservation of the Republic as was the suppression of the Southern rebellion, but it would not come peaceably. Let me tell you why. So far I have looked at this question from an American standpoint. Now I propose to consider how a Canadian-American liaison, whether under the name of "commercial union" or "unrestricted reciprocity," would affect my own country, "this Canada of ours," as we Canadians delight to call our Dominion.

In the first place it must be understood that Canada is now a prosperous country. There are not as many millionaires in the Dominion in proportion to population as in the neighboring Republic, but poverty is almost unknown. Even the pessimists will admit that the country is more prosperous and more progressive during this decade than in that between 1871 and 1881, which included four years of extreme depression.