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RECIPROCITY.

The reciprocity treaties recently made and now pending between the United States and several West Indies and South American countries, are meeting with very general approval and acceptance by the press and people of the United States. In singular contrast with this state of feeling there appears to be a very prevalent tone of indifference, if not of absolute hostility, to the adoption of a similar policy towards Canada, although all the commercial arguments which have been urged in favor of the former can be urged with even greater force in favor of the latter.

The official returns of the United States Bureau of Statistics, for the year ending June 30, 1890, conclusively establish the following facts:

1. That Canada purchased from the United States, during that year, merchandise to the value of \$20,000,000 in excess of the purchases of the latter country from Canada.
2. That in raw products of the farm, the forest, the mines, and the fisheries, the value interchanged was nearly equal, the excess in purchases by the United States being only about \$3,000,000.
3. That in manufactured goods, Canada's purchases from the United States were nearly \$23,000,000 in excess of the purchases of this class of goods by the United States from Canada. That the greater part of these manufactured goods was the product of American skill, in which the cost of labor largely exceeded the cost of material; most of them being of

the classes which were subject to high rates of duty under the American tariff, ranging from 30 per cent. to 50 per cent. and upwards.

5. That these manufactured goods were admitted into Canada at much lower rates of duty than similar goods would have been admitted into the United States, if imported from Canada.

6. That the value of the exports of manufactured goods to Canada, was over 15 per cent., or more than one-seventh part of the entire value of such goods exported to all foreign countries, which total value is shown by Washington statistics to have been, for the year referred to, \$151,131,297.

7. That a much larger proportion of the whole of the imports of merchandise is admitted into Canada, free of duty, than is admitted into the United States from Canada, on similar terms.

8. That the total exports of merchandise from the United States to Canada, exceeded the exports to all the West Indies by \$28,000,000; to Central America and Mexico, by \$42,000,000; to all South American countries, by more than \$22,000,000.

9. That the import and export trade, for the above year, between the United States and these countries compared with the trade between the United States and Canada, is as follows:

	Imports into the United States.	Exports from the United States.
West Indies.....	\$78,000,000	\$32,180,000
Mexico.....	22,690,000	12,670,000
Central America.....	8,240,000	5,450,000
South America.....	90,000,000	37,750,000
Total.....	\$198,930,000	\$88,050,000
Canada.....	39,042,000	60,449,000

The exports to Canada exceed the imports more than 50 per cent; the exports to the other countries are less than half of the imports.

Whether considered as to the extent of the trade, the general character of the merchandise sold, or the liberal terms of the Canadian tariff, the commerce with Canada has been far more profitable to the United States than that of any of the southern countries with which that country is negotiating reciprocity treaties. If a committee of experienced business men of the United States and Canada were appointed to discuss and settle upon a liberal and equitable policy under which the trade between the two countries could be promoted and extended, without involving any serious financial difficulties for either of them, or any extensive injury to existing interests, or disturbance of commercial relations with other foreign countries, they would very soon arrive at an arrangement which would prove of mutual advantage. Unfortunately the question is in the hands of politicians, few of whom have any practical acquaintance with commercial matters, or even correct information as to the present relative position of the trade between the two countries. They are more interested in the effect which such a policy would have upon the party to which they belong, and especially upon the constituency which they represent, than they are in its influence on the general prosperity. The disinclination prevailing in the United States to a liberal policy towards Canada, is largely attributable to the defective system under which their statistics of exports are collected, by means of which the exports to Canada for the last fiscal year were so much short-retained that they were made to appear fully twenty million dollars less than they really were. Public feeling there has been greatly misled by the pernicious action of a large portion of the press and a number of the leaders of the