

These exports were almost entirely the output of Nova Scotia mines, 83 per cent. of which were to the New England states for consumption in industrial establishments there, and upon which, at present, no United States duty is imposed.

#### WHICH?

Perhaps the most important questions now being forced upon the attention of Canadians are; tariff revision, as advocated by the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, where, as it is declared, the entire schedules should be revised; a tariff of a distinctly retaliatory character against imports from the United States, the idea being to make the tariff of Canada impose as high duties against United States products as the United States tariff imposes upon Canadian products; a tariff granting an increased and enlarged preference in favor of British products, and the renewal of a reciprocal trade arrangement with the United States by which no duty would be imposed by one country upon imports of natural products produced in the other. All these propositions are now before the voters of Canada, and deserve the most careful and intelligent consideration.

It is true that at the Halifax meeting of the Manufacturers' Association a strong demand was made for an entire revision of the tariff, which, later, was reiterated at the Toronto meeting. It is the opinion of many of the members that that demand was of a perfunctory character, seeing that many of them are well satisfied with the schedules which affect their several industries, and who would not be in accord with any movement that would disturb them. It is conceded that in certain industries some important tariff changes are imperatively required, particularly in some of the primary forms of iron and steel, and in certain lines of textile fabrics; and the impression prevails that the Government are quite willing to accede to such demands; but it is quite evident that a large element of the Association would strenuously object to any general revision of the tariff.

It cannot be conceived that any intelligent element of the Association, or of manufacturers who are not members of it, and there are a great many such, nor of thinking people generally, favor the idea that because the United States tariff works, as many believe, to the injury of Canada, we should adopt a retaliatory policy and do wrong simply because wrong is done us by another country. Were such a policy adopted it would result in untold evil to us; and the efforts of the scatterbrains should be discountenanced.

It is a question as yet undecided as to the benefit that would accrue to Canada from the extension or even the continuance of the British preference. We have seen that the preference which now prevails has worked the almost ruination of a most important Canadian industry; and it is for Canada to decide if it is in our interest to have the looms in our woolen mills thrown into idleness to the end that British looms may be kept in operation. The argument of the Manufacturers' Association is that the tariff, even under the preference, should be high enough to afford adequate protection to the Canadian woolen industry, which would, of course make it substantially prohibitive, a feature that we complain of in the United States tariff, which creates a desire on the part of some for retaliation. This tariff preference is certainly objectionable because of the harm it does; but another feature of it lies in the fact that it is of no benefit whatever to another and even more important British industry—the manufacture of articles of iron and steel.

It has heretofore been shown in these pages that in 1902, in a selected list of eighty-four dutiable manufactures of iron

and steel imported into Canada, valued at \$23,528,516, more than 75 per cent. came from the United States and less than 13 per cent. from Great Britain. One-third the duty upon these British goods was remitted, and yet, notwithstanding this preference over American goods, it did not serve to increase the exploitation of British goods in the Canadian market. In examining this list it will be found that of such articles as butts and hinges, cut tacks, locomotive engines, fire extinguisher apparatus, typewriting machines, wood screws, manufactures of aluminum, etc., including twenty-two articles, the imports of which, from Great Britain, in no instance amounted to as much as one thousand dollars, and the aggregate value of all of them to only \$6,886, the aggregate value of the identical lines from the United States amounted to \$1,854,430. On the same principle as that proposed by the Manufacturers' Association of increasing the tariff before the preference is granted, it might be suggested that in all instances where the imports from Great Britain do not in any one instance amount to more than one thousand dollars, or five thousand dollars, such articles be allowed to come in duty-free.

We cannot be unmindful of the fact that at this time very determined efforts are being made in the United States to bring about a substantial renewal of the conditions which prevailed under the 1854 convention by which no duty was imposed in either country upon imports of natural products of the other. After the abrogation of that convention in 1866 Canada sought long and struggled hard to obtain a renewal of it, unhappily without success; and now we find the United States in a willing mood to restore that status. Is Canada willing to accept it? Is commercial peace or hostilities to prevail between us and our nearest neighbor?

#### EDITORIAL NOTES.

In the United States House of Representatives, a few days ago, Mr. Williams, a member from Mississippi, and leader of the Democratic minority, protested against the inactivity of the House, particularly the pending resolution relating to reciprocity with Canada, to which Mr. Payne, a member from New York, said that the Republicans would not care to take up the question of tariff revision and disturb existing conditions on the eve of a presidential campaign, and that the time was not opportune to consider the reciprocity question. If that element of the Republican party which is striving for closer trade relations with Canada—and it is a strong and influential element—should suggest a possible coalition with the Democrats on that subject, it would be amusing to observe the agility of Mr. Payne and the ultra protectionists in changing their mind in that matter. They would much rather prefer doing the tariff revision and reciprocity business themselves, bitter though the pill would be, than allow the Democrats to do the job.

At the recent convention at Leamington, Ont., of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association, a resolution was passed urging the Dominion Government to extend to the canning industry of the country the same system of aid already extended to other industries, by enabling them to bring in their raw materials at the lowest possible cost, and that to this end the duty on sugar used in canning, and on packages used for holding canned fruit be remitted. If this means that the duty on imported sugar and packages consumed in the preparation of fruits for export is requested, the canners should know that there is already a law to that effect. But of course such concessions could not be made in favor of goods intended for home consumption.