

Reciprocity Treaty in 1866 came a period of high duties in the United States and of repression of the natural tendency of the two countries to trade with each other. Since that date the American tariff has been repressive in its tendency toward Canada as regards commercial intercourse. Several efforts were made by Canadian statesmen to secure a mitigation of these conditions, which hampered trade between contiguous peoples, and a return to a policy calculated to promote intercourse and trade between the British North American colonies and the United States. Two abortive attempts were made under the Conservative party between the abrogation of the treaty in 1866 and the year 1872. The failure of the first of these attempts, made soon after the abrogation of the treaty, served most effectively to promote the success of the scheme for confederating the British North American provinces, which was accomplished in 1867.

In 1874, after the Liberal party came into power, negotiations were opened by Hon. George Brown, as representative of Canada, and Lord Thornton, the British minister, on the one hand, and the American Executive on the other hand.

These negotiations resulted in the framing of a treaty known in Canada as the Brown Draft Treaty, which was broad and liberal in its character. It proposed to admit a long list of American manufactures into Canada free of duty, to give free admission for Canada's natural products into the United States, and to make other provisions calculated to promote good feeling and the growth of intimate relations between the two countries. This treaty unfortunately failed to receive ratification by the United States Senate; and the policy of trade repression between the two countries continued in vogue until the adoption of the Wilson Bill in 1895. Even this bill but slightly mitigated the almost prohibitive duties put upon Canadian farm products entering the market of the United States.

If the object of this line of policy was to convince Canada that the great advantage of securing access to the American markets could only be attained by entering into the American union, and of forcing a movement in that direction, its effect was the direct reverse of the intention of those who put the policy into operation. The result was that a feeling of animosity was engendered. Notwithstanding this state of feeling, the Canadian policy toward the United States was comparatively liberal. The duties were low, and the increase of importations from the United States into Canada grew apace. During the period from 1866 to the present year, the exports of Canada to the