

average majority of fifty in the last Parliament. The expression of public opinion in Canada appears to be decidedly in favour of some fair measure of trade with the United States, but the problem is whether the dominant party in that country under existing circumstances will be content with a moderate treaty on the basis of that of 1854, with such changes as will meet the later condition of things. As already indicated, while the present Government favour restricted reciprocity, they are pledged to maintain the general principles of the National Policy, and to agree to no measure that will discriminate against the parent State. The gravity of the political situation for some time to come must be intensified by the fact that, while the party of unrestricted reciprocity has been defeated in the Dominion as a whole, it has developed strength in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, where the total representation of one hundred and fifty-seven members is nearly divided between the Government and the Opposition, and it is obvious that the contest between the two commercial policies has but commenced. Looking at the question from the point of view of an impartial observer, we can see that Canada is entering upon a very critical period in her history. She has reached that stage when all the antagonistic elements, arising from those differences of nationality, geographical situation, and commercial interests, that exist in a Dominion stretching for three thousand five hundred miles between two oceans, must complicate its questions of government and require a careful, sagacious, and steady hand at the helm. Canadians are now practically the masters of their own destiny. From this time forward they have to face political, financial, and commercial problems, which it will require no ordinary statesmanship to solve wisely, and which must test to the very utmost their patriotism, their fidelity to an old and cherished connexion, and their ability to preserve their political autonomy on the continent, and build up a great and prosperous nation, always in close alliance, we trust, with England.

In the meantime, while the Canadian people are endeavouring to establish themselves firmly in America, it is earnestly to be hoped that any negotiations, which their Government may be able to enter upon with the authorities at Washington with the view of bringing about a settlement of all questions at issue between the two countries, will be eventually successful, now that a new and more liberal Congress has been elected by the people of the United States, and that the MacKinley Bill has been unequivocally condemned by the public opinion of the Republic. One thing is certain, and that is,

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