

forcing their trade into an east and west channel, are causes which continually manifest their unsatisfactory results in Canadian discussion. The Maritime Provinces desire commerce with New England, as nature intended they should have; while at the other extreme Manitoba is demanding that she be permitted her natural outlet for her crops southward through the Red River valley to Dakota, and the great mills and markets of Minnesota. So, too, Ontario desires trade with the adjoining states of our Union, populous and rich, and teeming with markets for her produce; while Quebec chafes under the restrictions that the present artificial and arbitrary arrangements impose upon her. These are facts, it is true, which concern Canada, and which her own statesmen must deal with; but they are none the less germane, as proof of the one great fact that the movement of commerce across the present boundary line of the two countries is that suggested by nature, and that restriction upon this should be imposed only for the strongest of reasons. The chafing of each group in the Dominion over the compulsion of its trade east and west, and the repression of it north and south, testifies against what is arbitrary and wasteful in favor of what is natural and beneficial.

The proposed arrangement commends itself to the approval of both classes of economists, in the two countries. It may very well be accepted by both. Those who desire freedom of trade see in this a step by which the area of unrestricted trade will be enlarged. On the other hand, Protectionists perceive that if the two countries agree with each other for the common maintenance of the protective system the stability of that policy in each must be all the more assured. For the friends of Protection in the United States acceptance of Commercial Union was made possible when Canada, in 1879, adopted her tariffs, and protected her manufactures against those of other countries, even including Great Britain. That step assimilated the policy of Canada to that of the United States, and gave the two a like position and interest. With the ports of Canada open to the wares of Europe, our customs