

Some Provisions of the Treaty.

In order that you may judge whether this suggestion is an extreme one, let me invite your attention to some of its provisions:—

It proposes to restore to us the right we held prior to the treaty of 1818, of taking, curing, and drying fish in and along the inshore fisheries of the Dominion, and that in consideration of the restoration of this right the fishermen of the Dominion may enjoy the same rights on our coast as far south as the thirty-ninth parallel, which they have not hitherto done. In so far I can discover only harmless and substantial reciprocity.

How Long it is to Bind Us.

It proposes that the articles, being the growth, product, or manufacture of the Dominion of Canada or of the United States, enumerated in three extended schedules, shall, on their importation from the one country into the other, from the 1st day of July, 1875, to the 30th day of June, 1876, both included, pay only two-thirds of the duties payable at the date of the treaty, on such importations, and from the 1st day of July, 1876, to the 30th of July, 1877, shall pay only one-third of such duties, and on and after the 1st day of July, 1877, for a period of twenty-one years, such goods shall be admitted free of duty into each country respectively. Without pausing to consider the articles embraced in these schedules, let me bring other of its propositions to your attention.

It will Extend the British Frontier to the Port of New York.

It proposes to extend the British frontier, which is our weak point in case of war with Great Britain, to and through Lake Champlain and the Hudson River to the wharves of New York and Jersey City, and along the St. Clair Flats Canal and the Sault Ste. Marie Canal, and to so improve and enlarge these channels that British vessels of war drawing not more than twelve feet may traverse, and in the event of war occupy them all, and thus harass and invest Buffalo, Erie, Cleveland, Chicago, Milwaukee, Detroit, Duluth, and other cities and towns upon the lakes.

In making this statement I do not quote the text of the treaty, but express a possibility its projector evidently had in view. The treaty being one of amity, for the promotion of reciprocal trade, such suggestions could have no place in its text. But let us see whether its draftsman may not have contemplated such possibilities.

Article V. stipulates that the Canadian canals on the main route from Lake Erie to Montreal shall be enlarged forthwith, at the ex-