

It is not the political but the commercial relations of the two countries which call urgently for readjustment. It is here that the dangers of disagreement and collision are most patent. And we believe that the time has come for a great change.

What we need with Canada, and what both countries we believe are ready for, is such a Zollverein as Austria-Hungary and Germany are said to have recently negotiated. Let us have one Tariff, one Custom House system for the whole continent north of the Rio Grande, with a division of the receipts proportional to population. The whole relations of the two countries point to such a solution. Whether the boundary line between America or Canada is or is not one of those providential lines which Ritter and the other scientific geographers believe to have been created for national frontiers, it certainly never was created for a Custom House frontier. It is a gross absurdity, which reflects on the common sense and business capacity of both countries, and will continue to do so under any arrangement except that which we propose. Both countries would save a large slice of revenue by making the seashore their only Custom House line, and would facilitate friendly personal intercourse between themselves. It would take away the chief obstacle to the free flow of American capital into Canada, and would rapidly bring the Dominion up to the industrial level of our own country. The tide of emigration would cease to flow Southward across the line; and the emigrants whom either traditional loyalty or Canadian assistance has carried thither, will not be seeking renumeration under the American flag.

To the lower provinces a Zollverein would be an especial boon. It would throw open to them our vast coasting-trade, which employs a greater tonnage than the whole mercantile marine of Great Britain. It would put them on a level with Maine as ship-builders, and enable them to find uninterrupted employment for their shipyards and their lumberers. On the other hand, it would put an end to the wretched disputes