

organized opposition to Canadian products and manufactures being admitted free to the United States. As an American newspaper puts it: "We desire to increase our exports, but we are not willing to increase our imports, and so we turn our backs, so far as legislation goes, upon our best customer upon this side of the ocean."

In the course of a review of the arguments in favor of reciprocity with South American republics and Mexico, and a recapitulation of the results of the experiment of thirty years ago made by way of a treaty with Canada, the *New York Journal of Commerce* ridicules the trade to be done with those Latin communities as pitifully small as compared with what might be done with Canada. For eight years prior to reciprocity the annual average exports of the United States to Canada were a little over nine million dollars; during the eight years of the treaty they were well over twenty-five millions. But the average annual imports of the United States from Canada for like periods increased from a little under four to nearly twenty-three million dollars. "In eight years before reciprocity we imported but two-fifths as much as we exported to Canada. The total amount of our commerce increased from a little more than a hundred millions in eight years before the treaty, to \$625,000,000 during the treaty, but our imports amounted to nearly \$300,000,000; that fact [the imports], is the reason why no reciprocity treaty can be secured."

It is freely admitted by the journal quoted that the advantages of freer commerce between the United States and Canada would be obvious and immense. "The balance of trade was in our favor before the reciprocity treaty, during the treaty, and is now." But it is pointed out that there are interested parties, and powerful parties, in the States, eager to stir up animosity to Canada and get lumber and other products of the Dominion excluded. "There are railroad companies adverse to the admission of Canadian coal into New England; there are farmers who fear lower prices for hay if Canadian hay be admitted; there are politicians who find it much easier to talk about protecting American labor from cheap foreign competition than it is to deal with the currency or any other topic that demands immediate action. Hence we shall for some time continue to put obstacles in the way of our trade with the Dominion, and resort to all sorts of nostrums to stimulate our trade with the tropical part of the continent, whose populations will not be nearly so valuable customers as the highly civilized people speaking our own language who live in the rigorous climate to the north of us."

It is agreeable also to find a paper like the *Manufacturer*, of Philadelphia, a strong protectionist, taking up the subject of reciprocity and giving strong reasons for its contention, that the time has come for a new commercial treaty with Canada. The cause for this outspokening just now is the adoption by Canada of the preferential system of tariff duties, under which Great Britain, or any other country granting favors to Canadian exports, shall be entitled to a reduction of duties.

EXPORTING CATTLE.

While Canadians are attempting to build up a profitable export trade in dressed beef there continues to be an increased movement in cattle and sheep to Great Britain and the United States. It is becoming pretty generally admitted in foreign countries that the hue and cry raised some years ago against Canadian cattle was quite unnecessary. The experience of the past year goes to show that the diagnosis of the Imperial officers, on the authority of which the cattle trade of this country was subjected to

severe limitations, was erroneous. Of the 117,428 cattle exported in 1897 no trace of pleuro-pneumonia or any contagious lung disease was found by the inspectors. When it is considered that these cattle were gathered from all parts of the Dominion east of the Rocky Mountains, it must be admitted that the herds of Canada are in a sound, healthy condition. The following table shows the number of cattle and sheep inspected for export for Europe during the past four years at Montreal and St. John, N.B.:—

	Cattle.	Sheep.
1894.....	82,217	121,504
1895.....	99,606	187,328
1896.....	101,502	117,428
1897.....	117,428	62,406

Since the removal of the regulations which required a quarantine retention of 90 days on cattle entering the United States from Canada, this trade has shown marked development. During 1895, there were only 882 head sold in this trade, 1,646 cattle in 1896, and in 1897 when the new regulations were passed, 57,857 cattle were sent across the border line. In this way a profitable outlet has been found for cattle which were not of a suitable size for shipment to Great Britain. The demands from the United States has been largely for young store cattle. Our farmers are, as a rule, not well provided with facilities for feeding these cattle to a thoroughly fattened condition, and would do well to turn more attention to the matter.

REACHING OUT FOR TRADE.

A year or more ago, we printed a communication from the then Japanese Consul in Canada, Mr. Nosse, stating that his nation was rapidly learning to use Canadian flour, and that it was prepared to like and use Canadian butter. He, therefore, recommended that pains be taken by Canadians to put these products on the Japan market. The movement to do so has been but slow. Still, when Mr. Anderson, the Canadian Trade Commissioner to Japan, returned from that country to Canada, he induced the Department of Agriculture to send a consignment of a ton of butter to Japan. This was done, and three days after its arrival a cable was received to repeat the consignment. Mr. Anderson is now in receipt of the following information from the consignees: "The butter sent arrived in good order, and is certainly the best that ever came into this country. It went like greased lightning. Every day or so a note comes in asking for more. I can safely report to you that the brand forwarded [a North-West product] is an established butter in Kobe." This was creamery butter, and it was first-class. It would be a mistake to send poor stuff. The Japanese are a dainty people. Let us see to it that the "one ton" of yesterday becomes a hundred tons or a thousand tons in successive years.

LIFE ASSURANCE IN CANADA.

We are progressing in the matter of life assurance in Canada. The number of life policies issued in the latest twelve months was 284,454, which compares well with the 245,000 of 1895 and the 198,000 of 1893. This number of policies means, if we assume that each policy means a life, that more than one in three of the married male population of Canada has his life insured. Of course there are more policies than lives, but the statement is not far from accurate that 36 per cent. of the married male population by the last census have passed through the hands of the life underwriters.

Most of them are assured in Canadian companies, too. Out of the net assurance in force in all Canada at the close of 1897, which totalled \$844,000,000, more than \$208,000,-