

it was almost free trade. Not one of these articles coming from England was to be admitted free of duty. This draught of a treaty was sent to Lord Derby, who answered that the whole proceeding was approved, and the English Government assented to the arrangement admitting American goods free to a British colony, where a tariff of 20 to 40 per cent. was to be laid upon the same kind of goods coming from England or any other country than the United States.

Commercial union is not in hostility to England. She has no better customer than the United States, and the entrance of Canada into our commercial system and our business activities would stimulate her prosperity and make her trade in all directions more valuable. The five hundred millions of English capital invested in Canada would be immediately enhanced in value to English owners.

The irritating questions that have arisen between our Government and England have nearly all originated in our relations with Canada, and they have often disturbed our vast business with Great Britain and even endangered peace. They would be removed and that great trade, many hundred millions annually, would enjoy assured permanent peace.

These, in brief, are some of the practical business reasons in immediate view for the step proposed by this resolution. Every intelligent and thoughtful mind will see the far-reaching effects of commercial union upon the two peoples in the long hereafter, the security it will give to continuing peace, the solution it will afford at once to all the exasperating differences that have been in dispute for generations, the vastly extended prosperity it assures to the English-speaking people of this continent dwelling together in harmonious activity, increasing power, and unbroken peace.

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Mr. HITT, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, March 16, 1888, submitted the following report to accompany joint resolution (H. Res. 129):

The Committee on Foreign Affairs, to whom was referred House joint resolution 129, to promote commercial union with Canada, beg leave to submit the following report:

Our commercial relations with Canada have recently awakened a deeper interest and received a more thorough discussion than ever before, on both sides of the border. The tendency of public opinion is plainly towards the enlargement of trade between the two countries. In Canada the movement has advanced from what was a few years ago an effort for partial reciprocity, to a wide expression in favor of unrestricted intercourse and commercial union. The evidence of this fact is abundant.

The Right Honorable Joseph Chamberlain, high commissioner from Her Majesty's Government, is reported to have recently stated in a speech:

"The arrangement between the colonies and Great Britain is essentially a temporary one. It can not remain as it is. * * * Already you have in Canada, the greatest of all the colonies, an agitation for what is called commercial union with the United States. Commercial union with the United States means unrestricted trade between the United States and the Dominion of Canada, and a protective tariff against the mother country. If Canada desires that, Canada can have it."

And speaking of the relation of Canada to the United States and Great Britain on a subsequent occasion the right honorable gentleman further said that—

"Commercial union with the United States meant that Canada was to give preference to every article of manufacture from the United States over manufactures from Great Britain. If the people of Canada desired an arrangement of that kind he did not doubt that they would be able to secure it."

Within a few weeks a conference was held at Quebec of the prime ministers of all the provinces constituting the Dominion of Canada, and after a very full exchange of views these representatives of the executive powers of all portions of the Dominion unanimously adopted the following declaration:

"This conference, comprising all political parties, is of the opinion that a fair measure, provided under proper conditions, for unrestricted trade relations be-