

New Brunswick was also of the same opinion. It became evident that modifications would be necessary on both sides, if the treaty was to continue.

Desultory negotiations were carried on between the respective governments with reference to adjustment of existing difficulties, but no decision was arrived at, and on 18th January, 1865, notice was given by the American to the Imperial Government of their intention to abrogate the treaty, on the ground "that it was no longer for the interest of the United States to continue the same in force."* Formal notice being officially given on the 17th March following, the Imperial Government thereupon instructed its representative at Washington to inform the United States Government of its "willingness to reconsider the treaty in conjunction with the Government of the United States, to negotiate for a renewal of it, or so to modify its terms as to render it, if possible, even more beneficial to both countries than it had hitherto been."† Negotiations were carried on for nearly a year between the two governments, assisted by the representatives of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, who went to Washington for that purpose, but without any result, and all attempts at arrangement came finally to a close in February, 1866, a few weeks before the expiration of the treaty.

411. The treaty came to an end in due course on 17th March, 1866. The trade of the British North American Provinces had hitherto been practically confined to two markets, viz. : Great Britain and United States, and their products only found their way to foreign countries through United States ports, by which they lost their identity and became confounded with American productions. In the face of the termination of the treaty, it became necessary that vigorous steps should be taken towards the opening of new markets, and all the provinces combined for that purpose. Commissioners were sent out to arrange for the opening of direct traffic with the West Indies. The enlargement and improvement of the canals, and other means of navigation were actively proceeded with, and the confederation of the provinces was undoubtedly brought about sooner than it would otherwise have been.

412. As soon as the treaty was repealed, the United States imposed heavy duties on almost all the articles imported under it from the Provinces, while but little change was made in the tariff on this side of the line, and the use of the Canadian canals and the free navigation of the St. Lawrence were still left open to American shipping. The inshore fisheries of the St. Lawrence and British North American coasts were also kept open to American fishermen on payment of a small annual license fee.

413. In spite of the heavy blow necessarily inflicted on the commerce of the Provinces by the abrogation of the treaty they recovered with surprising rapidity.

414. In July, 1868, a resolution was passed in the United States House of Representatives, appointing a committee to visit Prince Edward Island

* Notice of abrogation, 18th January, 1865.

† Despatch of Earl Russell to Sir F. Bruce, 24th March, 1865.