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THE RECIPROCITY QUESTION.

SOME few weeks ago a long despatch appeared in the daily papers, professing to give the details of a Draft Reciprocity Treaty, alleged to have been framed and agreed to by the American Minister and the Foreign Office in London. Our semi-official papers denounced it as bogus, and its elaborate clauses were found on examination to be copied almost wholly from the old Treaty, made in 1854. This Draft Treaty, it was alleged, had been sent to Ottawa for consideration and criticism by the Dominion Government. Only last week, again, another alleged Treaty document turned up. The Boston *Globe* professed to have received it as a cable from London; and it purported to give the essential parts of the Canadian Government's criticism of the alleged Draft Treaty above mentioned. Here let us quote from the alleged reply:—

"As must be known, the Canadian Government in 1878 entered upon a new era in the adoption of a protective system, having in view the best interests of Canadian manufacturers. That policy, then encouraged, has proven commercially of the highest interest to the business community of the country. Their interests and those of this Government are identical.

"To-day manufactories which have been established for years are running with full work, and employ large numbers of operatives in the manufacture of different lines of goods embraced within the schedule. It is considered that while among the articles so enumerated and submitted to this Government, those which are the products of the land might without danger to the commercial interests of Canada be admitted free into each country, yet there are contained within that schedule many articles which the Canadian Government would not care to admit in the interests of the manufacturing community.

"Being therefore fully aware of the deep interest manifested by Her Majesty the Queen, through the Imperial authorities, in her Canadian colony, and that the proposed draft is the outcome of that consideration, the Canadian Government feel their deep obligation to Her Majesty for the interest thus displayed. It should, however, be considered in this connection, that the will of the people as expressed in a marked degree at the polls in 1878, by the election of a Conservative Government to power, and the confidence reposed in that Government since that time on account of the successful carrying out of the policy then inaugurated, shows clearly that the feeling of Canadians would be opposed to the ratification of such a treaty as that proposed in detail by the draft forwarded to this Government for consideration.

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"As regards cotton and woollen clothing manufactured, it is said that at the present time over \$10,000,000 is invested in these lines throughout Canada, of which Montreal and Toronto have an interest of over two-thirds. [What about Hamilton? we beg to ask. Surely a remarkable omission, when manufactured clothing is spoken of.] These wholesale dealers,

who are also manufacturers, have invested their capital with the understanding that they would be protected, and not being able to successfully compete with the manufacturers of the large centres of the United States, it is thought that this line should be dropped from the list of free goods.

"The same objection is also made as regards agricultural implements. If the treaty as proposed by the draft were to go into effect, the result is pointed out as being that the makers of self-reapers and mowers in Ontario would be obliged to close their shops, and throw out of employment some 8,000 men, skilled citizens who are at present employed in different vocations connected with the business. Not only would McCormick, but a horde of American manufacturers of self-reapers, binders, mowers, ploughs, and other farm implements, flood the country with their goods, which they would be able to sell in legitimate trade at 20 per cent. discount from the prices now asked in Canada by Canadian manufacturers.

Si non vero, e bene trovato, says the Italian proverb: if not true it is well found, or cleverly invented, to say the least. If the reasons above set forth have not actually been stated by the Dominion Government, as alleged, they are nevertheless such reasons as it would have been the Government's duty to have given, supposing such a Treaty to have been proposed. After having established the National Policy of building up home manufactures by means of Protection, and that with a measure of success really remarkable for an achievement of only seven years' effort, it would indeed be acting a foolish and cowardly part to throw up the sponge now, and thus sacrifice a victory which already is practically won. We can readily enough believe that English free traders would be zealous to promote any new arrangement whatever, with the United States or any other country, if only it held out promise of making a breach in the defences of Canada's National Policy. But no such blundering sacrifice of this country's interests will be consented to by the Canadian people.

On another page we copy an article from the *Toronto World*, in which is stated at length the one great objection which is, and always must be, fatal to all proposals for Reciprocity between the United States and Canada—in manufactured goods. Such Reciprocity would open American markets to Canadian goods—only this and nothing more. But it would open our markets, not alone to American goods, but to British goods as well, and through Great Britain to the manufactures of all the world besides. The same conclusive argument has been repeatedly set forth in our own columns, as readers of the CANADIAN MANUFACTURER can bear witness. There is positively no way of getting over this gigantic and really insuperable difficulty. Time and again have our free traders been challenged in these columns to explain, if they could, how this difficulty is to be overcome. But no such explanation has yet