

The Saint John Monitor.

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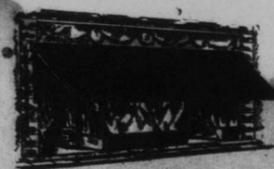
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LIBERAL M. P.'S ON RECIPROcity PACT.

Messrs Neely, Guthrie and Clark in St. Andrew's Rink.

AGREEMENT DISCUSSED IN ALL ITS BEARINGS IN A CONVINCING MANNER—WILL BE A GREAT BENEFIT TO CANADA.

Hearty applause from a large and enthusiastic audience in St. Andrew's Rink on Monday evening greeted the visiting members of Parliament who came here to discuss the reciprocity question. Mr. James Pender occupied the chair, and there were on the platform: Mr. John Keeffe, chairman of the Liberal executive; Senator G. G. King, Hon. L. P. Farris, Mr. J. S. Gregory, Mayor Frink, Messrs. H. N. Coates, Edward Lantallum, Dr. A. F. McAvenny, Timothy O'Brien, John McMulkin, Alderman Scully, Dr. A. D. Smith, M. Gallagher, Councillor Donovan, Dr. J. M. Smith, A. F. Bentley, M. P. P., Hon. D. J. Purdy, James Lowell, M. P. P., John M. Elmore, I. E. Smith, Timothy Collins and others.

Mr. Pender spoke briefly, declaring his belief that reciprocity would be a good thing for the whole country.

Dr. D. B. Neely, M. P., for Humboldt, Sask., was first introduced and was warmly welcomed. After a reference to the pleasure he felt at visiting St. John, and how favorably impressed he was with the possibilities of the port—the improvement of which should be a national, not a local concern, Dr. Neely took up the reciprocity issue, and dealt with some of the arguments put forward a few weeks ago by Prof. Leacock and Mr. Ames, M. P. The latter had undertaken to tell them that reciprocity would be a great injury to the port of St. John because the supplies of the west would be tapped at their source and carried by the American railways to the markets of the world. There was not an atom of foundation for such a statement. Not only would the wheat of the west continue to go through Canadian channels, but as a result of the reciprocity pact there would be a much larger quantity shipped this way. The westerners expected by the competition of America, with Canadian and English buyers, they would get a fair price for their grain. The United States would want a small portion of the hard wheat to mix with their softer wheat, and that the amount so taken would not affect the supply to any extent. It was a fallacious argument that the business would all go north and south instead of west and so ruin the Canadian market. In answer to the argument that the pork industry in Canada would be ruined, it was only necessary to state that the pork packers in Western Canada are now making preparations to enlarge their plants. Instead of Canadian products going via United States ports, the people would find that the products of the middle west in the United States would be going through Canadian ports because of the shorter route. If the arguments of Prof. Leacock were sound, then Canada had been living in a fool's paradise and entirely at the mercy of her neighbors, as they could at any time have lowered the tariff wall and taken our products. Dr. Neely declared that there are no more loyal people in Canada than the farmers of the west. There was no basis for the disloyalty cry. Dr. Neely paid a hearty tribute to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and spoke appreciatively of the work of Hon. Mr. Pugsley.

Mr. Hugh Guthrie, M. P., for South Wellington, Ont., spoke of reciprocity from the business point of view, first expressing his delight at what he had seen in and about St. John. It had been claimed that this was an agitation from the west, but the delegation that urged the government to take up the matter was representative of the whole of Canada and the result of reciprocity, if attained, would be a benefit to all Canada and would not be sectional. Even admitting that it was only the farmers that were asking for reciprocity, it should be considered that out of every 100 people in Canada, 40 were farmers. The farms of Canada were worth more than the banks, the live stock was worth more than the bank stock, the foodstuffs were worth more than the goods stuffs; all would benefit. After dealing with statistics of the trade of Canada, Mr. Guthrie dealt with the schedules in the new agreement in detail, giving the amount of the reduction and the volume of trade under each head. On the free list were natural products including practically all farm goods, and three manufactured articles—cream separators, which are always free; typewriting machines, which were never bought in Great Britain, and wood pulp. In this class of goods Canada had done \$13,000,000 amount of business, of which \$9,000,000 was with the United States and \$4,000,000 with Great Britain. On

schedules B and D, were a few manufactured articles and proprietary goods, including automobiles, certain varieties of biscuits, pickles and sauces, etc., in which the reduction was from one to five per cent. The amount of business under this head was \$23,000,000, of which \$23,500,000 was with the United States and \$2,500,000 with Great Britain. A comparison of these figures would not lead to the conclusion that reciprocity would discriminate against the British trade, but rather that it affected articles in which the principal trade was with the United States. Canada was now buying \$110,000,000 worth of goods more from the United States than she was selling them and he had Mr. Foster's word that the natural result of reciprocity would be that the movement of trade would be southward and not northward. He felt sure that the new arrangement would be of more direct benefit to the Provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia than to any other section of Canada. Mr. Ames had sounded a note of alarm to the New Brunswick farmers in his address, but had gone out of the way of truth to frighten them. He had said that the United States sent \$2,000,000 worth of their products into this province in one year, but had neglected to mention that include in these figures was the raw cotton manufactured here, the Indian corn ground in the mills, the early strawberries and vegetables out of season which were not in competition with New Brunswick produce. Mr. Guthrie read from the trade returns to show the small amount of the actual produce imported into New Brunswick against the competition of local farmers. The first effect of reciprocity would be the increase in land values. The fishing industry would be benefitted more by the new arrangement than it could be by any other method. In sending herring from St. John, on a \$10 hoghead, a duty of \$2.50 was charged and who would say that the export would not be increased if this was removed? On cod the duty was three-quarters of a cent per pound and on haddock and the larger fish one cent per pound and the thousands of fishermen would be greatly enriched by the opening up of the new market of \$0,000,000 by having this tax taken off. Boat builders along the shores of Nova Scotia had orders enough to keep them working for two or three years, just on the expectation of the agreement going into force. Anyone connected with the lumber industry knew how great the help would be to their business by the admission of rough sawn lumber free and the reduction of the duty on laths and shingles. The offer made by President Taft was unrestricted reciprocity, but this had been turned down by the Canadians. The country must have a tariff for revenue and the manufacturers must be protected. Another way in which St. John would benefit under reciprocity would be from the revival of the coasting trade, which flourished in the old days before Confederation. All the opposition to reciprocity was centred in Ottawa, all because Mr. Foster, who still dominated the Conservative party and who had initiated the policy, had condemned the unborn infant and attacked the agreement before it was made public. Mr. Guthrie ridiculed the course of Sir B. E. Walker and Mr. J. W. Flavell, Toronto, in opposing the agreement, and pointed out how the agreement will help Ontario cattle raisers. Then he proceeded to another argument, that by enlarging the market the production would be increased, thus lowering the cost to the consumer. It was quite plain that a stove manufacturer would sell cheaper if he made 10,000 stoves than if he only made 1,000. If the farmers grew more crops and produced more butter and eggs would not they be able to sell them cheaper? He believed that reciprocity would work the same way. The farmer's output would be so greatly increased that the cost of production per unit would be lessened and the prices would be lower. The New Brunswick farmer no longer need fear swamping the St. John market but could grow as much as he liked. It needed more immigrants to Brunswick and the prospect of an unlimited market was the greatest argument that could be used to attract them. Men in the Conservative party who had played the political game for fifteen years and lost on every throw were opposing the ratification of the agreement because they were afraid of the effect it would have even in the

first year. In their extremity they had raised the loyalty cry but he felt justified in saying that there was not an annexationist in public life in the whole of Canada. Turning to the record of the Conservative party, he challenged any member of the party in the audience to stand up and give one instance in which the Conservatives had benefitted the empire in their long years of misrule, and he recounted the good work of the Liberals. He referred to the attempts made by different Conservative leaders to obtain reciprocity, and predicted that with reciprocity as an issue, Ontario would return a majority of Liberal members to Ottawa at the next election for the first time since Confederation.

Dr. Michael Clark, M. P. for Red Deer, Alberta, after a pleasant reference to previous visits to St. John, said he had had considerable opportunity of seeing statesmen on both sides of the water, and in his opinion the Canadian parliament was composed of as able men as were to be found anywhere in public life and not the least of them was Dr. Pugsley. Turning to the arguments which had been advanced against the pact, he said that it had been asserted that St. John would suffer a diminution of its trade. He was convinced, however, that so far as this from being the case that St. John would not only not suffer as a winter port, but would become a summer port. Increased trade is bound to benefit the port of St. John and all the ports in Canada. But there is no place where results may be looked for with more certainty than in this city. The lessons of history are all against protection. Great Britain, in spite of all the talk of her alleged decadence, built and owned one-half of the entire shipping of the globe. They did a quarter of all the overseas trade of the world, and yet Great Britain and Ireland could be placed twice over in the Province of Alberta. The bearing of all this for St. John was that any lowering of the tariff was sure to be followed by an increase in foreign commerce. Opposition speakers had asserted that reciprocity would injure the chances of British preference. Canadians had a duty which they owed to themselves in this regard. The three elections which had taken place in Great Britain in recent years have proved that England stood "irrevocably pledged to free trade, at least for a great many years to come. In his opinion the Liberals were truer to the old country than the conservatives because they were trying to follow her example. To-day the democratic party in this States was prepared to go much further in the revision of the tariff than the republicans. He observed that the next elections in Germany would show that high protection had lost many of its supporters in that country. High prices were being traced in their origin and destination. They were being traced to protection and the people were beginning to see that the profits were going to swell the pockets of the millionaires. The present fight was between monopoly and freedom. The men who were opposing the pact were the men who were making money out of wretched stocks, but it was not the men, it was the system that must be condemned. One thing which would ensue from reciprocity would be a rise in the value of land. That would mean increased prosperity for the whole of Canada. He scouted the contention that trade routes would be changed. It had been said that we would exhaust our raw materials. If that were to happen then the amount of trade done would have to be far greater than any history had so far recorded. The speaker dealt with the assertion that the liberal government had no mandate from the people to carry such a pact through, showing that governments were entrusted with just such powers.

Dr. Clark concluded with a word to those who were afraid of the pact because of what it might lead to. "Such he would recall the proverb, 'Never cross a stile till you come to it.' One step was good enough for him at a time especially when this step led, as infallibly as every measure of the liberal government had done, in the right direction."

The three speakers were frequently applauded during their addresses.

Between two of the speeches Mr. Pender read this telegram, which was received with applause:

Ottawa, May 8, 1911.
John Keeffe, President of Liberal Executive, St. John, N. B.:

In supplementary estimates submitted to parliament by Finance Minister to-day there is an additional amount of \$500,000 for improvements in St. John harbor. This is for the purpose of commencing work of development in Courtenay Bay to provide terminals for the Grand Trunk Pacific.

WILLIAM PUGSLEY.

ELECTIONS IN JUNE.

Halifax, N. S., May 10.—The Local Legislature has been dissolved and the date of the general elections is fixed for June 14; nominations one week earlier. The Legislature just dissolved was elected on June 20, 1906.