

a short, but very hotly contested campaign, in which the Government was sustained and continued in power. During that contest he who had for so many years been the leader of the tariff party of Canada, Sir John A. Macdonald, took an exceedingly active part, visiting and making speeches in a great many of the constituencies. An indomitable determination carried him through his arduous labors, but the reaction came with the subsidence of the excitement, and soon after the assembling of the new House of Commons, our grand old captain was stricken down by disease, which resulted in his death on June 6th. As soon as his death was announced a special general meeting of this Association was called, to convene on June 11th, for the purpose of taking suitable action in the matter. This meeting was held and appropriate resolutions passed; and it was ordered that a copy of them be suitably prepared, and presented to Lady Macdonald.

The death of Sir John A. Macdonald was made the occasion, by the Opposition, to furiously attack the Government, in the hope that in the confusion which then prevailed to some extent, the Government would be defeated and the National Policy destroyed. But strong, true and skilful men were in command, and the storm was weathered; and subsequent events have shown that the people of Canada are as fully determined as ever to maintain and perpetuate that policy which has made this Dominion the great and prosperous country it is; and this Association may feel proud in the knowledge that in the first bye-election occurring since the adjournment of Parliament, our respected ex-president, Mr. Bennett Rosamond, was called to take a seat in the grand council of the Dominion.

On the assembling of the new Parliament last spring, Finance Minister Foster announced that the Government had determined to place certain grades of raw sugar upon the free list; and the House of Commons subsequently ratified the proposition. The duty was removed from all sugar imported for refining purposes, not above number 14 Dutch standard; but a duty of eight-tenths of a cent per pound was retained upon all sugar above that number.

It was supposed that at the last session of Parliament the Finance Minister would have dealt with some of the many tariff matters which require revision; but the removal of the duties upon raw sugar caused such a large reduction in the revenue; and pending negotiations, looking to some sort of reciprocity in trade with the United States, were deemed sufficient reasons for deferring action in the matter, and therefore no further changes were made in the tariff. But the representations made to the Government by this Association have received serious consideration, and it is to be presumed that a suitable time will soon arrive when such amendments and changes will be effected in the tariff as will meet all the reasonable objections now urged against it. I am pleased to state, however, that some of the incongruities complained of have been rectified by Orders in Council which will hold good until the close of the next session of Parliament.

The question of reciprocity in trade with the United States has been very fully discussed in Parliament, in the press and on the hustings, and probably quite as much so in the United States, and it was thought that some consultations regarding it would have been had before this time between the authorities of the two countries. But the clamorous demands of the anti-protectionists

and annexationists for unrestricted reciprocity have created the impression in the United States that Canada is very desirous for it and cannot do without it, with the result that that country is holding off from official discussion of the subject, in the hope that Canada will ultimately ask to be annexed and made part of the American Union. There are those in Canada who are striving for this result, but they are few in numbers and weak in influence, the masses of the people being most decidedly averse to any such arrangement. As representatives of the people the Dominion Government are willing to negotiate a treaty on the basis of reciprocity in natural products, but not in manufactures; and unless this idea comes to prevail it is not probable that any treaty will be made.

This Association has always entertained most decided views upon this question, and it has frequently given expression to them; and at its last annual meeting a series of resolutions were passed which emphatically declared the opposition of the Association to any change in the policy of the Government which would subject Canadian manufacturers to the unequal competition of any foreign manufacturers; or to any arrangement being made by which there would be any trade discrimination whatever against Great Britain. This sentiment was so pronounced that your secretary was instructed to present a copy of the resolutions to the Government. This was accordingly done, and they were duly placed in the hands of Sir John A. Macdonald, the receipt of which was duly acknowledged by him.

After the death of Sir John, at a meeting of the Executive Committee, it was deemed essential that the new Premier, Hon. J. J. C. Abbott, should be personally informed of the sentiments of this Association. The Secretary was instructed to prepare another copy of the resolutions for presentation to him, and a committee was appointed to convey it to him and assure him that unrestricted reciprocity with the United States would deal a most damaging blow to the manufacturing industries of Canada. This commission was duly executed, and I feel safe in saying that the sentiments of the Government on this subject coincide entirely with those of the Association.

A few days ago, in view of the early assembling of the Dominion Parliament, I sent out an invitation, calling upon the members of the Association, who may desire changes to be made in the tariff, to meet the Tariff Committee here to day. A considerable amount of business has developed before the Committee, and it is probable there will be several other meetings of it before the convening of Parliament.

I desire to express the obligations I have been under from time to time, in the discharge of my duties as your Secretary, to President McNaught and Mr. Frederick Nicholls, Chairman of the Executive and Tariff Committees, for their willingly rendered assistance in transacting the affairs of this Association.

Treasurer Booth presented his annual financial statement, which was read and adopted. It showed the Association to be in a sound financial condition.

The following officers were elected for 1892:

President—W. K. McNaught.  
First Vice-President—John Bertram.  
Second Vice-President—P. W. Ellis.  
Treasurer—George Booth.  
Secretary—J. J. Cassidy.

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J. T.  
Henr.  
John.  
Hon.  
Alex.  
T. D.  
J. M.