

RECIPROCITY

By far the most important utterance on Reciprocity since the proposal now before the people of Canada was first made is contained in two articles contributed by Senator Sir George W. Ross to the Toronto Globe. Sir George is one of the best known public men in the Dominion. He is a life-long Liberal, was for years Premier of Ontario and has always stood high in the councils of his party. His views therefore derive additional force from his position. He is a master of English and possesses in an eminent degree the ability of condensation; but we hope to be able to give a correct idea of his argument without reproducing his articles in full.

Senator Ross begins his articles by the statement that the advances of the government of the United States towards reciprocity are regarded in Canada with indifference if not with distrust. He points out that, whereas the average duty in Canada on imports from the United States is 24.36 per cent, the United States duty on imports from Canada is 48 per cent, and he finds that taking into account the free list, our imports from the United States considered as a whole only pay a duty of 12.52 per cent. This is because nearly half our imports from that country are duty free. From these facts he argues that if the trade relations between the two countries are not satisfactory the fault certainly is not on our side. If we care to enter into a treaty it can only be on the supposition that we still further extend our free list, or reduce our tariff on manufactured goods; but the first seems to be as wide as it can very well be, and as our duties are only one-half those of our neighbors, they have a wide scope for reduction before they bring their tariff down to ours. He takes the position that if the Washington government desires to promote trade with Canada it can easily alter its customs schedule for that purpose, and when that has been done Canada can determine for herself if any changes ought to be made in hers.

The Senator cannot see that any treaty is necessary. He points out that the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854 was necessary because there were certain other things that had to be determined, some of which were only finally disposed of by the Hague Tribunal. He takes the same position in respect to a reciprocity treaty as the Colonist took some time ago, namely that it deals permanently with "conditions that are fluctuating and unstable." Such a treaty must be for a certain length of time, and it is very easy to understand how during the pendency of its terms such changes might take place in business conditions as would render adherence to the treaty a hardship to one party or the other and possibly to both. We are now free to deal with the tariff from year to year, and it seems needless and might be mischievous to enter into permanent obligations that might interfere with our freedom of action. A second objection which Senator Ross takes to the principle involved in such a treaty is that being permanent in its nature it would inevitably lead to the establishment of new avenues of trade.

Sir George discusses reciprocity in natural products. He admits that free admission in the United States of Canadian exports such as those produced on the farm, might tend to increase the price of them, but he is inclined to think that any such increase would be fully offset by an import of similar articles from the United States. It would only be possible, he says, for the farmer to derive any advantage from the enlarged market when his produce was of a higher character than that of the United States or when there was a shortage in that country. He instances the case of cheese, which he says would be governed in price by the United States market, whereas now it is governed by the demand at home and in the United Kingdom. He can see no advantage to the Canadian farmer in the free admission of oats, wheat and cattle into the United States. Both countries are at present exporters of these articles, and under reciprocity the market of Canada might at any time be demoralized by the export to this country of any surplus product from the south. He thinks also that it would become impossible to differentiate between high class Canadian wheat and the lower grades produced in the United States, the result being greatly to the disadvantage of the Canadian wheat grower.

Senator Ross looks upon the effect of reciprocity upon transportation in Can-

ada with very great alarm. He points out that Canada has expended \$80,000,000 on railways and \$80,000,000 on canals to provide routes of transportation across the Dominion. He thinks that anything that would lead to the diversion of traffic from these roads to United States railways would be productive of great injury. He says if the Canadian Pacific, the Grand Trunk, the Canadian Northern or the Intercolonial could hope to hold the carrying Canadian exports, if our trade is to be diverted to the south, and he asks what would become of our seaports in such an event. He points out that freight on our imports from the United Kingdom are kept down by the fact that our exports go over Canadian lines, and he anticipates that if the exports are diverted there will have to be an increase in freight on our imports.

Imperial considerations also are dealt with by Sir George. He asks if it is contemplated to impair the preference given to the United Kingdom and if reciprocity may not minimize "our consideration for imperial interests." If we will not weaken our position to consider favorably proposals for inter-imperial preferences, if we are prepared to prejudice British capital invested in Canadian railways and steamships, if we wish to form commercial alliances what will divert our trade from the Empire, if we are willing to run the risk of entering into a treaty that might be open to misconstruction and might disturb the friendly relations between the two countries, and if we prefer to enter into a commercial partnership with a foreign nation instead of forming one with the Mother Country.

Having dealt with these aspects of the case Senator Ross goes on to consider the necessity for a reciprocity treaty, and is unable to discover any in 1854 British North America needed the market afforded by the treaty then agreed upon. We had lost all the advantages we possessed in the British market under the Corn laws and the Trade and Navigation Act, and it was necessary to do something to meet the emergencies then existing, but there is no such emergency now. No necessity is felt by the people of Canada for any improved trade relations with the United States. Every year our position in respect to the market of that country is improving, and he thinks we can very well afford to wait upon the developments of the future. This is much the same argument as the Colonist has advanced. He urges the importance of the fact that Canada now has the absolute control of its fiscal arrangements and can alter them from time to time as Parliament wishes, and he is unable to see why the country should be in the hands for any definite period in the future for the sake of the very shadowy advantages likely to follow from a treaty.

Sir George makes the suggestion that the government of the United States might of its own accord initiate reciprocity by reducing its rate of duties on articles manufactured in Canada to the level of duties in Canada on articles manufactured in the United States, and he points out that if the Dominion lowers its duties upon manufactured goods it will at once stop the investment of United States capital in factories in this country. Already \$25,000,000 of such capital is invested in this country in such enterprises, and a treaty would speedily put an end to anything of that kind. He says that as overtures have come from the United States for their could not very well be declined, but he adds: "I am not sanguine that any proposal that can be made for mutual concessions will ultimately prove advantageous to the industries of Canada or the development of our great natural resources."

The arguments advanced by Senator Ross will produce a profound impression upon the people of Canada. The Globe did not make any comment upon them at the time it published them, although when the second paper appeared it published an editorial indicating that its own views in respect to reciprocity do not go very far. It denies that it is promoting reciprocity

with the United States, but asks how "Canada's national interests would be imperilled by an arrangement that would give Nova Scotia and British Columbia coal free entry into the United States, and permit us in Ontario to bring soft coal from Pennsylvania without paying three millions a year into the Dominion treasury." As yet we have to find any prominent Canadian journal advocating reciprocity as a general proposition.

MR. MACKENZIE DREAMS.

When Mr. William Mackenzie dreams, he usually manages to discover a way by which Castles in Spain can be solidified with a fine lot of capital behind them, and there is a rumor abroad that he has exhibited considerable ability in annexing sufficient of that capital to offset any discomfort that his dreams may afford him. The Toronto Globe tells us of the latest subject upon which the President of the Canadian Northern has been indulging in what is alleged to be one of his habits. Colonist readers may recall that some months ago we quoted a California capitalist, who was visiting this city and who said: "Almost everything worth accomplishing was first a dream in the mind of some man, who had the courage, foresight and energy to make his dream a reality." But we will quote from the Globe:

On the upper reaches of the Sanguaney there is a water-power capable of developing from 150,000 to 200,000 horsepower. To the North of Lake St. John, draining a vast area of the best spruce country in the Dominion, Mr. Mackenzie's dream is of a city that is to be built around the falls and of the use of Lake St. John as a huge mill pond on which the spruce can be stored to be floated down to great pulp and paper mills at—well, let us call it the city of Mackenzie. A number of capitalists with ten million dollars to invest are interested in the dream, and it is proposed next year to make the vision a reality. This is certainly a proposal of vast interest, and we have not the least doubt that Mr. Mackenzie will carry it into effect. In these days a project involving half a score of millions is not a very serious matter. There is money available to do anything at all that is worth doing. The great thing is to dream the right sort of dreams before going out into the market for the coin.

Work on raising the Maine is about to be begun. If it is successful the world will know whether or not the United States was justified in declaring war against Spain.

The Ottawa Free Press says Mr. Bourassa how he would like it, an "English" bank refused to lend any money to a "French" business house. Mr. Bourassa has not thought that far along.

Mr. Roosevelt is going to make a whirlwind campaign in New York. He is to make a tour of the State in a motor car, speaking in every city, town, village and hamlet. Whenever two or three are gathered together the strenuous Theodore will be in the midst of them.

It seems very likely that if Portugal could be let severe alone and the revolutionary movement could be kept from spreading, matters would soon settle down to a satisfactory basis. The great danger is it may spread to Spain. If it does no one can tell what may happen.

Mr. Evelyn Cecil, M.P., thinks a good way to begin imperial unification is to create a department in London "with colonial connections as connecting links between imperial conferences." We are under the impression that something of that kind had already been inaugurated. It is a good idea anyway.

Premier Murray of Nova Scotia, who has been ill, is getting well again and his political opponents vie with his friends in the kindness of their congratulations. This is as it ought to be; but why is it only when people are sick or dead that their opponents, as a rule, speak kindly of them? "What's all the world to a man when his wife's a widow?"

WEILER BROS

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ENGLISH SOVEREIGN

To us who have seen two kings throne without a question being their right to do so or any desecrated that the crown should another, who remember a part of long reign of Victoria, it comes shock to know that her accession accompanied with a more of demonstration against placing it in the hands of a young girl, who living representatives of the royal male line more fitted in year possibilities of the kindly office of Cumberland, her uncle, was far as successor to his brother William Victoria was ineligible to the throne which descended in the male line there not a few people in England hardly undesirable that a mere slip of a girl should ascend of the United Kingdom. The some strong personal friends, was not a man to be greatly esteemed time the United Kingdom was in a satisfactory condition. Then they contented population in Scotland was torn asunder by political and sunk in deep poverty. It was after that Lord Macaulay, reply O'Connell, who had stated that event there would be civil war in "We have passed that fear, for we civil war in its worst form" but it quite reached this stage when Victoria throne. In England there was content. The effect of the Referendum was disappointing. Too much was it. Men had fancied that an extension franchise meant the enlargement happiness, and when it did not thought the fault was to be found that the Bill had not gone far enough last three years of the reign of were marked by bad harvests, a Laws preventing the importation of that necessary article of food had were then regarded as famine prodigies of the people was almost desolation was the strengthening of movement, which in the year following cession of Victoria assumed definition committee consisting of six members and six representatives of the framed what they called "The Peace" It demanded universal male all persons, either native-born or British subjects over 21 years of electoral districts; the ballot; amendments; the abolition of property for members, and the payment of That these things were thought to tatory in 1838 shows how far along gone on the road to democracy Victoria was a girl Queen. The enthusiastic for the Charter. Me held everywhere in support of it, at that on more than one occasion a million people gathered together their determination that it should The government did not interfere holding of meeting by torch-light rated, when through fear that it easily be made the instrument of by reckless people, they were several of the most incendiary leaders. In 1839 the Chartists electives to meet in what was called Convention. They proposed to come by the adoption of various n was recommended that there should upon all banks for gold; that the able articles should cease; that the merchants and manufacturers should cotted, and as a last resort that strike should take place. Collision the military and the mob occurred rages became no infrequent. N there was no general resort to the strength of the movement may from the fact that a petition in Charter, signed by 1,280,000 people, ily prepared and sent to Parliament body refusing to consider it, the ordered a general strike, but the obeyed. There were, however, ma disturbances, and some conflicts v tary resulting in loss of life. Rioting over a series of years, culminating when it was found necessary to s less than 200,000 special constables alone. The good sense of the govern equal to the occasion. Severe mea pression were not resorted to, only more turbulent spirits being placed rest and punished. Perhaps never tory of any country did a great peo great principles in a better temper shown in England during the Cha ment. The violence was not con that which accompanied popular tions in other countries. It has b some that this was due to the entire anything resembling Communism. agator wanted the franchise, n might unite with others and form a but that he might as an individual fight to vote as he himself person The movement gradually died away influence of the general prosperity of try, but its violence is worth recall days, when we are told that the nat to be rent asunder whenever there popular demonstration.

When Victoria came to the throne Melbourne was Prime Minister. His great statesman, but he was shrewd headed. It is said of him that he