

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1913.

A STRIKING VINDICATION.

One of the strongest arguments presented against the Reciprocity Agreement with the United States and one which had a telling effect in its rejection by the Canadian people, was the contention, if reasonable time were given, the United States would be compelled to lower the tariff bars and that the Dominion, without entering into any entangling trade alliance and without changing a single item in the tariff, would derive the benefits which the Pact was supposed to offer. Since the rejection of the agreement in the general election of September, 1911, with the resultant feat of the Liberal Government, there have been many indications that this prophecy was coming true. Through the United States a wave of public sentiment swept Mr. Taft and the Republican party with their high tariff into the discard. The Democrats, who on general lines stand for a tariff for revenue, today control the situation.

As the result of a searching investigation of the tariff needs and requirements of every important industry in the United States, which has just been concluded at Washington, it is now certain that many reductions in duty and additions to the free list will be enacted. By means of this downward revision, to which the Democratic party is pledged, Canada stands to obtain certain lower rates than would have been granted under the Reciprocity Agreement, and is not asked to concede in return any tariff reductions. In other words, by "standing pat," by declining Mr. Taft's invitation to become an "adjunct" of the United States, the Canadian people have retained for all time their commercial independence and can witness the lowering of the tariff wall by the United States with considerable complacency.

In a dispatch under Saturday's date from Washington, the staff correspondent of the Montreal Star throws much light upon the intentions of the Democrats with regard to the tariff. Since the tariff question came under consideration, some four weeks ago, the Democratic majority of the Ways and Means Committee have made it clear that they were determined on sweeping reductions, but without resorting to free trade. The following interview with a prominent Democratic member of the Committee is worth quoting:

"Is it not a fact," I said to him, "that under the reductions you propose, Canada will get lower rates, in some directions, than she would have obtained under the Reciprocity Act?"

"There is no doubt of that," he candidly replied. "Canada," he added, "is, in my opinion, going to get more for nothing than she would have got by giving us something under the Reciprocity Act. We are not going to do this, of course, with the intention of favoring Canada, for Canada will get the same rate as any other country. We are doing it for the benefit of our own consumers. But there can be no doubt that Canada will derive more benefit, in one or two directions, at any rate, than any other country."

"Take lumber, for instance, I feel perfectly convinced that lumber will go on the free list. I do not mean rough lumber merely, but the partly finished product. In this Canada supplies more to us than any other country, and in the stand for lumber we are supported by many Republicans."

"Personally, I shall support the putting of all food products, so far as possible, on the free list. I think, too, although I am of course only giving a personal impression, that cattle, meats, wheat and flour, in which Canada deals so largely, will all go on the free list. I stand also for putting raw wool on the free list, but I have no doubt whether the duty on this will be entirely removed, although reduction will undoubtedly be made. In this again Canada will benefit, although our primary object in reducing the duty will be to encourage the raising of mutton sheep at home."

"I need hardly say, perhaps, that our aim in taking the duty off cattle and meat will be to bring good food more within reach of the poor and to attack the problem of the increasing cost of living."

The primary object of these proposed reductions is naturally to benefit the United States community in general. With that policy Canadians will have no reason to disagree. Mr. Taft's proposals went much further. In the Reciprocity Agreement he saw the need for tariff reduction but was candid enough to admit that he was attempting to kill two birds with one stone. The direct blow which the ratification of the Agreement would have given to Imperial Preference will not be forgotten. Speaking at New York on April 27, 1911, Mr. Taft said:

"I have said that this is a critical time in the solution of the question of Reciprocity. It is critical, because unless it is now decided favorably to Reciprocity, it is exceedingly probable that no such opportunity will ever again come to the United States. The forces which are at work in England and in Canada to separate her by a Chinese wall from

who had taken the bonds were entitled to claim from the Royal Bank at its office in Montreal the money they had advanced for a purpose which had ceased to be operative. The lenders' right was a civil one outside of the Province of Alberta, which could not legislate validly in derogation thereof. The effect of the statute in dispute, it was added, would have been to preclude the bank from fulfilling its legal obligations to return their money to the bondholders whose right to this return was a civil right which had arisen and remained enforceable outside the Province. The statute was on this ground beyond the powers of the Legislature of Alberta, inasmuch as what was sought to be enacted was neither confined to property and civil rights within the Province, nor directed solely to matters merely of a local or private nature within its limits.

The force of this is fairly plain. A Province may be through its Legislature as confederate as it pleases when only people and interests within its bounds are affected. It cannot take away the property of men outside of its legislative jurisdiction. The decision will leave Alberta in an awkward position; but this is altogether the result of its legislators' and its administrators' incapacity.

A TIMELY WARNING.

There is a considerable importation of California navel oranges into Canada and a timely word of warning in the Boston Transcript that unwanted care must be used in the selection of fruit during the coming months is worth noting. In spite of statements to the contrary, there seems to be no doubt that Eastern markets are to be flooded with fruit that has been frost-bitten. Press reports have already called attention to the magnitude of the calamity which has befallen the fruit growers of Southern California. Undoubtedly the citrus crop of the State has been seriously damaged, but just how much of the fruit remaining on the trees is marketable is a problem which the growers are finding difficult to solve.

Early estimates of the extent of the damage gave 10,000 carloads as the probable volume of this year's shipments of marketable fruit. As "smuggling" was extensively resorted to in an effort to save the crop, this estimate may prove to be too low. Where this was thoroughly done losses were minimized, but many growers had neither means nor facilities for such costly work, and as the cold spell lasted for three days, the losses were undoubtedly large.

In any event, the Transcript foresees that there is certain to be many thousands of carloads of oranges seeking a market in the East that will prove to be in a more or less unsatisfactory condition. The damaged fruit is just beginning to arrive in Boston, and the proportion is likely to increase, though there is always a possibility that the selling price will not cover the cost of packing, freight and selling. It is understood that the railroads in the United States have insisted upon the freight being guaranteed before shipment in doubtful cases, and it is currently reported in the fruit trade that this guarantee has already been made on nearly a thousand carloads.

As the frosted fruit looks as attractive as ever, the problem of selection is exceedingly difficult. Experts say that the only sure test, aside from cutting and tasting the fruit, is the alcohol bath. Immersed in fresh alcohol, whose specific gravity is much less than water, the way in which the oranges sink determines their character. Frosted fruit is rendered bitter and unpalatable, and lacks the juicy qualities of the perfect orange, but it is not unwholesome. As the Transcript sagaciously remarks it would be a rude awakening from a pleasant dream of delicious feasting, to find the fruit dry and bitter, the outside fair to the eye, but the inside a snare and a delusion!

The advantages which will accrue to British Columbia by an increase in immigration when the Panama Canal is opened were recently referred to in these columns. It is instructive to note by a statement in a recent issue of the Victoria Colonist that the Pacific Province already stands third among the Provinces in the number of immigrants who came to Canada during the twenty months ending November 30th last. The Colonist is naturally jubilant as to the future. "In a year or two," it says, "if all goes well, the Panama Canal will be opened for traffic, and a tide of immigration will flow through it into this Province. That British Columbia will then lead all the other parts of the Dominion in the expansion of its population seems a foregone conclusion. It is time to begin to get ready for what will certainly happen."

Mr. Turgeon had better consult the Leader of his party without further delay. He repeated in the House of Commons last week the ridiculous story of which Mr. Pugsley is the author that if the Laurier policy had been adopted there would now be a shipyard in the city of St. John and the firm of Cammell, Laird and Co. would be about ready to launch the first of the war vessels. Sir Wilfrid Laurier stated in the House of Commons last December that if shipbuilding for his navy had been undertaken the place selected would have been Montreal. Mr. Turgeon should know that the people cannot be fooled all the time.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

HIS PREFERENCE.

You little old steam-heated flat! I never shall get over that. Were I a poet I should do A song to dedicate to you. Were I an artist I should paint A masterpiece that would equal The world with all the joys you hold; Joys worth their weight in solid gold!

The foolish painter of today Packs up his kit and goes away And paints a farmhouse buried till The snow is at each window sill. I know the farmhouse and I know The people milk half frozen kine And delve for wood as miners mine.

Ah, yes, I know it! I have tried With frozen soap in ossified, Cold fingers, and a sudsy wrath, To sort of half contrive a bath. Out in the summer kitchen cold By lantern light. Oh, days of old, You hold no joys among you that I'd take for my convenient flat!

My modern flat, steam heated, warm, My shelter 'gainst the winter storm, Your narrow halls does not annoy, Your tiny bathroom is a joy! I love your cozy kitchenette, Your disappearing bed. Oh, let The painter paint the farmstead blue; I sing along my praise of you!

"Getting By" With It.

Lord Dufferin delivered an address before the Greek class of the McGill University about which a reporter wrote:

"His Lordship spoke to the class in a pronouncing, a proud or making the slightest grammatical solecism." "Good heavens," remarked Sir Hector Langevin to the late Sir John A. Macdonald, "how did the reporter know that?"

"I told him," was the Conservative statesman's answer.

"But you didn't know Greek."

"I told him a little about politics,"—Toronto Mail and Empire

A Fascinating Experiment.

Professor of Chemistry—"If anything should go wrong in this experiment we and the laboratory with us might be blown sky-high! Come closer, gentlemen, so that you may be better able to follow me."

Schoolmaster Reassured.

Prize Fighter (entering school with his son)—You give this boy o' mine a thrashing yesterday, didn't yer? Schoolmaster (very nervous)—Well, er—perhaps.

Prize Fighter—Well, give us yer 'and; you're a champion. I can't do nothin' with 'im myself.

Obvious.

Aunt Eliza came up the walk and said to her, small nephew: "Good morning, Willie. Is your mother in?"

"Sure she's in," replied Willie truthfully. "D'you s'pose I'd be workin' in the garden on Saturday morning if she wasn't?"—Ladies' Home Journal.

Unexpected.

Haven't you forgotten something, sir?" said the waiter to the diner who did not believe in tips.

"If I have you may keep it for your honesty," was the grouchy reply.

"Thank you sir, you left this pocketbook on our chair. It probably slipped from your pocket."

Her Point of View.

Mrs. Subbs (to new cook)—"If I'm not greatly mistaken, Norah, you worked for me some years ago?"

Nora Gonigan—"I dunno, ma'am, but if I did I hope you won't repeat th' offense that made it necessary for me to resign."

Naturally.

De Style—I hear Soakum, the pugilist, was held up by a highwayman and they went for some years ago?"

Nora Gonigan—"I dunno, ma'am, but if I did I hope you won't repeat th' offense that made it necessary for me to resign."

Naval Discipline.

The officers of a British man-o-war were entertaining their friends with a grand lunch, and in attendance were some typical British tars. A young lady, wanting a piece of bread, looked behind her chair at one of the sailors in waiting and asked him to bring her what she wanted. But he drew himself up stiff and stern and, to her amazement, replied:

"Can't do it, miss; I'm told off for taters."

Different.

Judge Giles Baker, of a Pennsylvania county, was likewise cashier of his

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home bank. A man presented a cheque one day for payment. He was a stranger. His evidence of identification was not satisfactory to the cashier.

"Why, judge," said the man, "I've known you to sentence men to be hanged on better evidence than this."

"Very likely," replied the judge, "but when it comes to letting go of cold cash we have to be mighty careful."—Weekly Telegraph.

Prandial Economy.

An artist who spent a great part of his life in the Latin Quarter, tells of the frugality of a Frenchman who lived on a pension of five francs a week, involving a curious system which the Frenchman thus explained: "Eat is simple, vaire simple! Sunday I go to the house of a good friend, and there I dine so extraordinarily and eat so vaire much I need no more till Wednesday. In sat day I have at my restaurant one large, vaire large, dish of tripe and some onion. I abhor zey tripe, yes, and ze onion also, and tegezzey zey make me so ill as I have no more any appetite till Sunday. Eat is vaire simple!"

Supreme Sagacity.

"Why is it that the dog is always referred to as the most intelligent animal?"

"Because he knows how to get a good living without doing any work," replied the horse.

SUNDAY NIGHT MEETING

IN THE EVERY DAY CLUB

Walter Brindle was the speaker at the Every Day Club last evening and in an able address showed how superstition and emotionalism are playing a less and less part in religion, and a more practical religion is steadily improving the conditions of life for mankind. He gave many illustrations to show how the world has grown and is growing better, and appealed to his hearers to take a part in the work for social betterment.

The president of the club observed that Mr. Brindle himself practised, that which he urged others to do, and referred to his work among the boys.

Muscle was furnished by E. A. Beall and a trio from Carmarthen street church.

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BOARD CAN

Total Member Watertown for Feb

As a result of 92 memberships Trade were set total up to 663. tion record was ton Griffiths Com applied for 40 m an expenditure of part of the comp Mr. Chase who the campaign let town, New York engaged to do th by the Board of Before leaving campaign here h ful and that h places where the of co-operation, not always as e said, "In a worked in memb an instructio of Trade from rai city there was ll manifest; very f of refusal to w who did said the J. M. Robins board, said then to be pleased w campaign, which that would enabl

SERIOUS AG A DOUGL

Bursting Pi Cost Jame of One or

Newcastle, Feb dent occurred in of the Douglast afternoon. Davi James McCosh, and James Sim take a piston rod engine of a boat was fixing up. T extracted the of noon. This one force, not knowi hollow and that inside of it. By Cosh had hold of turning it in the was thrown bac the hot ashes w eyes and face, perfectly clean. When picked u after the debris v just discern day. Both are clow amount of inju few days. His f Mr. Simpson, w

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