

Twice-a-Week Times

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A CLEAR CUT ISSUE.

The dissolution of the House of Commons on Saturday occasioned no surprise to those who had been watching the trend of events in parliament since reassembly after the interregnum in the session. The opposition made it clear that it intended to block every attempt to bring the reciprocity agreement to a vote, and it would have been mere waste of the time of the members of the House to keep up the farce.

It is satisfactory to realize that the issue before the electorate of Canada is clear cut, unambiguous, single and without the possibility of misconstruction or perversion. The opposition is at liberty to throw into the contest all the energy necessary to justify the assertion that this is the most momentous issue that has ever occupied the attention of the people of Canada.

Reciprocity in natural products and a tariff in certain other products equalized with that of the United States is the sole matter upon which the people will be called upon to pass judgment.

We think there can be no doubt that the country has made up its mind and is saying for the necessary formalities and time required, the vote might, with safety—as far as the policy of the government is involved—be taken to-morrow. There need be not the slightest doubt that the government will be overwhelmingly returned to power with an explicit and pronounced mandate to ratify the reciprocity pact forthwith.

It is to be regretted that an equitable redistribution bill was not passed before dissolution, but the egregious obstinacy of the opposition prohibited this. The childish introduction of long dead questions by the obstructionists provoked the conviction that the agreed policy of the opposition was government by minority. That fact and the associated, but equally indisputable fact, that the minority in no sense represented the feeling of the people of Canada will not be overlooked when the ballots are cast.

There can be no doubt that Liberals—almost to a man—from end to end of Canada are, both by conviction and party allegiance, determined to support the government in its reciprocity policy. An equally indisputable fact is that not more than half the opposers of the Dominion are opposed to reciprocity. Supposing the parties to be normally equal, or about equal, this leaves us with an opposition representing one-quarter of the people of Canada, declaring that the will of three-quarters of the voting population shall be thwarted. And when it is considered what three-quarters of Canadians will attain in supporting the reciprocity agreement the obstruction and opposition of the small party led by Mr. Borden becomes more unparliamentary, if not inexplicable.

The issue is simply shall the people of Canada be permitted to sell their surplus products in the nearest market available providing it is to their advantage to do so? Shall they be permitted to choose whose money they shall take for what they have to sell or shall they be compelled, on occasion, as may very well happen—to restrict themselves to a market within their own territory? Shall they be permitted to deliver their goods upon the level or shall they be compelled to climb a tariff wall in order to deliver them in the markets of a next door neighbor? Shall their trade and commerce be permitted to flow along natural channels—unobstructed by inevitable cloying and clogging of customs duties—or shall they be compelled to take what is open for them in the markets of the United Kingdom in competition with similar exports from all other countries without the let or hindrance of a tariff obstruction?

This is but half in the category of choice which is placed before the producers of Canada. The producers are also consumers, and by far the larger proportion of the voters are consumers in a sense also which does not bring them under the advantages of the reciprocity pact as producers. Shall the consumers of Canada, who desire of the natural products of the neighboring country which they do not produce

themselves, be compelled to pay an average ad valorem duty of twenty per cent. on all the necessities or luxuries of life they may desire to import? Taking potatoes as an example, and supposing they abound in United States markets at \$1 per sack. Is there any sane reason why the Canadian consumer should pay 25 cents per sack to the government of Canada for the privilege of importing these when the government offers the consumer the privilege of bringing them in at their market value? Who that has to maintain a home would not go out of his way to save himself one-fourth the cost of the necessities of life? Potatoes in this case stand as representative of the effect of reciprocity on the price of food stuffs in general provided they are not produced in sufficient quantity in his own country.

In the province of British Columbia we are compelled to import the major part of what is absolutely necessary to live the commonly decent life, and we shall be compelled to do so for many years to come. Why should we be compelled to pay ourselves one-quarter more than is necessary for these articles? The answer is, simply because Mr. Borden and a part of his party are wedded to the principle of high tariffs and insist that it shall be done. They tell us we shall enrich ourselves by doing it. They tell us that we are not the sons of Britain unless we loosen our purse strings every time we buy a sack of potatoes and pay twenty-five per cent. more for it than is necessary. And the same is true of every other natural product that enters into daily consumption. The consumers of Canada number one hundred per cent. of the populace, while the producers—in the sense we mean—number no more than ten per cent. Why should all the people tax themselves unnecessarily in order to evade a supposititious injury to the pocket of the ten per cent? We say a supposititious injury because, under reciprocity the ten per cent. of producers will be more than doubly advantaged by the larger and freer market he will obtain for his products.

These are the questions the people of Canada will have to decide on September 21. There are no side issues that affect the pocket or the life of the nation. The question is clearly put and the answer will be decisive.

ANNEXATION ARGUMENTS.

The frequency of quotation from speeches of American congressmen and senators who threaten the annexation of Canada in case the reciprocity agreement is put into application is a marked feature of Conservative addresses throughout the Dominion. Beginning with the initial address of President Taft, in which he said that "Canada is at the parting of the ways," every United States legislator who has introduced annexation into his addresses has been made to do duty in providing the material to construct the annexation scarecrow. Unfortunately the reader of these quotations is frequently not in a position to know the standing or the opportunism of the offender.

That the epigram of President Taft has been distorted out of all relation to its intended self has been explained, but the quotation is so frequently emphasized that a repetition of the explanation has become necessary. President Taft undoubtedly meant that should the Imperial Conference devise and adopt a system of preferential tariffs within the Empire, the effect might be to preclude future possibility of a reciprocal trade arrangement between the United States and Canada.

This was, however, very far from suggesting that reciprocity would weaken the bonds of Empire. Reciprocity with the United States has nothing to do with the bonds of Empire, as we shall show. What Mr. Taft shrewdly foresaw—in case the British Imperial preference scheme was enacted—was that it might be designed along such lines as would prohibit Canada entering into closer trade relations with the Americans or any other foreign nation. Canada might have been compelled, in order to make possible an Imperial scheme, to submit to such conditions as would tie her hands in the matter of trade with other countries. It is, of course, possible to devise a scheme of Imperial preference without these limitations, but no one could foresee that it would be done in that way. It was to anticipate the tying of Canada's hands in such an unnecessary and limitative arrangement that the president was anxious to secure the passing of the agreement before the bar sinister was imposed.

As the case stands now it is possible, rather, it is already arranged, that a scheme of Imperial preference be devised which will in no way affect the trade relations of Canada with other countries. She, in common with all the other overseas dominions, is now free to make her own trade treaties or agreements with any other nation, and this without in any way affecting her right to still give a preference to British imports. Her complete autonomy in trade and commerce is secured. This might have happened without any steps being taken toward reciprocity, but, on the other hand, it might have happened otherwise. President Taft foresaw all this and took time by the forelock, securing to both the United States and Canada that mutually accorded

arrangement which advantages both countries alike. That is all that Mr. Taft's figure of speech can reasonably be interpreted to mean, and he has confirmed this by the repeated statement that annexation talk is nonsense.

It has been suggested, and we think not unreasonably, that those American statesmen who have spoken of reciprocity as a step in the direction of annexation have done so with a view to arousing antagonism and opposition in Canada toward the pact. Every intelligent citizen of the republic knows that the day for serious talk of annexation has gone by. He knows that Canadians will never affiliate with American institutions unless they are compelled to do so by conquest, and the Peace Arbitration pact about to be signed is sufficient evidence that this is not contemplated. Every official act of responsible statesmen in the United States gives the lie to the affirmation that the Americans have any designs upon Canada, "sinister" or otherwise. That is what lends plausibility to the suspicion that the senators and congressmen who have talked of reciprocity have not been sincere, or sincere only in the hope that such talk would arouse Canadian sentiment to defeat the pact.

Now is this all that lends color to that view of their attitude. Those who have talked most loudly in favor of annexation are those who have most stoutly opposed reciprocity; a situation which is in itself contradictory. If annexation is good, reciprocity must be measurably good. Yet those who have most stoutly proclaimed their desire for annexation have been the most strenuously opposed to reciprocity, which they all the while affirm is the first step in that direction.

We may also take Senators Smoot, Nelson and Reid, all cattlemen who have profited immensely by the arrangement under which they bond their yearlings into Canada, fatten them and then drive them back to their own country to sell at an enormous advantage over American fed live stock. Should reciprocity prevail they fear the abolition of this privilege and the consequent contraction of their profits. In other words, they belong to the interests who stand to lose their advantages under the provisions of the reciprocity pact.

As in Canada, so in the United States, the campaign against reciprocity is cleverly designed, deep, dark and devious in its course. But in both countries when the opposition is sifted to its very foundations it is found that the love of the almighty dollar by the protected interests is greater than all native loyalty, and higher even than loyalty to the Empire or federation of states in the Union. This has been so frequently demonstrated by the responsible press in both countries that repetition of the facts is made necessary only by the persistence of subtlety.

MAN DROWNED FROM PRINCESS ADELAIDE

William Cooper, Russian Deck-hand, Went Overboard off Point Grey Saturday

William Cooper, a Russian, employed as deck-hand on the C. P. R. steamer Princess Adelaide, was washed overboard and drowned on Saturday afternoon about three miles off Point Grey. The vessel under command of Capt. Hunter, was making her regular run from Vancouver to Victoria.

A heavy sea got up after the vessel came off Burrard Inlet, and when the Adelaide was off Point Grey, Cooper went along the lower deck for the purpose of closing the freight doors. In doing so the officers of the ship believe that he must have opened the lower doors to close the top ones, as they say the lower doors are always closed. In swinging the top door, it is believed that he either slipped and was carried out by the door going outward, or else swept off by a sea.

The accident was not seen by any member of the crew until Cooper was noticed swimming in the water several hundred yards astern. When notified that a man had gone overboard Capt. Hunter stopped the Adelaide and a search in the surrounding water was made. Cooper had by this time disappeared from view and no boat was put out for rescue purposes as there was no indication of the whereabouts of the missing man.

When the man did not come to the surface at the end of one hour and further search appeared useless, Capt. Hunter proceeded on his journey and reached Victoria one hour behind time. The Adelaide carried 400 passengers and there was considerable sea running at the time. The drowned man had been employed on the Adelaide one month as deck-hand, and was known as William Cooper, a Russian, although the officers of the C. P. R. here believe that name has been assumed by him for reasons of more easily obtaining work in Canada. Beyond the fact that he was a Russian, and that he is believed to be a single man, nothing is known of the deceased.

AVERTS TRAIN WRECK.

Belle Fontaine, Ohio, July 31.—With a shirt torn from his back, Robt. Cook, of De Graff, Saturday haggard "Big Four" Flyer No. 17 at Quincy curve, probably saving the 150 passengers from death. Cook, while walking along the tracks, discovered a broken rail, ran half a mile up the track and stopped the train.

David Spencer, Limited, August Furniture Sale Commences Tuesday

This sale, like our general departmental sale, has been one of great interest to the people of Victoria for many years past, but this year there is every indication that the interest and enthusiasm will be more intense than ever. For several months our buyers have been searching the markets and have been very fortunate in their purchases, consequently we are in a position to offer you many very interesting bargains. Our stock is as large and complete as ever and includes a wide range of useful Bureaus, Sideboards, Dining Tables, Parlor and Dining Room Suites, Carpets, Linoleums, Rugs, etc. All marked at prices that should be of great interest to all who require furniture or house furnishings of any description. See our window displays on View and Broad streets to get some idea of the sweeping reductions that we have made for this sale.

Large and Choice Selection of Sideboards and Buffets from \$14

HANDSOME BUFFET, in solid quarter cut oak, in exceptionally neat design. Top measures 48x22 in. Body has plain ends, and is mounted on handsomely carved claw feet. Has 1 large linen drawer and 2 small drawers, large cupboard with 2 doors separated by handsomely carved panel. The back is a beautifully shaped mirror 42x14 in., with bevelled edges, in neatly carved frame. Special sale price \$35.00. SURFACE OAK SIDEBOARD, top measures 48x22 in. Has serpentine front, 2 small drawers, 1 long drawer, all with shaped fronts, large cupboard with 2 doors handsomely decorated with carving, has high-back carrying bevelled mirror 28x16 in., 1 large shelf and 2 brackets supported by gracefully shaped pillars. Price \$25.75. SIDEBOARD, in surface oak, has large cupboard with two doors divided by a carved panel and two drawers over. The body has panel ends and top measures 3 ft. 9 in. x 19 in. The back carries bevelled mirror 24 in. x 14 in. One large shelf and two brackets supported by two shaped and carved pillars. Special sale price \$14.00. SOLID OAK SIDEBOARD with serpentine front, has two drawers with serpentine fronts; two large cupboards; doors overlaid with carving, and one long drawer; all fitted with brass handles. The back is 40 inches high, has one large shelf and two brackets supported by turned pillars and bevelled mirror, 28 in. x 16 in. Sale price \$18.75. SOLID OAK SIDEBOARD, golden finish, has large shaped feet, panel ends, large cupboard with two doors overlaid with carving; one large drawer with bow front; also two small drawers with shaped fronts. The back is 44 inches high surmounted with very handsome carving, has one large shelf and two brackets supported by two massive shaped and carved pillars; also bevelled mirror 18x32 inches. Special sale price \$26.50. SIDEBOARD with serpentine front, made of solid quarter cut oak, golden finish. This is a really handsome piece of furniture of moderate size. Top measures 20x44 in., has panel ends, two entirely drawers, 1 large linen drawer, and large cupboard with leaded glass doors. The back is 24 inches high, is neatly shaped and carved and carries two neat brackets and one large shelf supported by shaped and carved pillar. Special sale price \$17.00.

BUFFET, in fumed oak, mission design. Case measures 54x22 over the top and 42 in. high. Has panel ends and is mounted on hand-carved claw feet and is fitted with cupboards, one large drawer, and two small drawers, one of which is lined for silver. The back is 21 in. high and is fitted with a large shelf and carries a bevelled mirror 3 ft. x 12 in. This is a very neat piece of furniture, well finished throughout, and fitted with solid brass drop handles and escutcheons. Price \$49.75. BUFFET, in fumed solid oak. The body measures 48x22 in. over the top and 40 in. high. Has shaped front and panel ends and is fitted with three cupboards, one long drawer for linen and one silver drawer fitted with plain turned knobs. The top is fitted with a best British bevelled plate mirror, 40 in. x 9 1/2 in., and one large shaped shelf. Price \$24.50. BUFFET, in fumed oak. Body measures 48x19 over the top, and 40 in. high. Has panel ends, one large drawer, three small drawers and two cupboards. The cupboard doors are decorated with a diamond strapwork design, and is furnished with quaint bronze handles. The back is simple and low, and is fitted with plate rail. Price \$40.00. SIDEBOARD, in solid oak, Early English finish. Top measures 20x48 in., 40 in. high. It is mounted on hand-carved claw feet, and has plain ends. The body carries large cupboard with two plain wood doors and one shaped leaded glass door, one large linen drawer and two small drawers. The back is 3 ft. high and carries one large shaped shelf supported by turned and carved pillars, also two shaped china brackets and an oval shaped bevelled mirror 27x32 in., surmounted with neat carvings. Price \$55.00. SOLID OAK SIDEBOARD, with 1 large linen drawer 7 in. deep, large cupboard with 2 doors richly ornamented with carving, and 2 small drawers 6 in. deep, one lined with felt for silver and cutlery. The body has panel ends, is richly decorated with carving and measures 4 ft. x 22 in. over the top and 42 in. high. The back is 40 in. high, neatly shaped and carved, has 1 large shelf and 2 small shaped shelves, supported by two turned and fluted pillars, and carries a bevelled plate mirror 2 ft. 6 in. x 1 ft. 6 in. A bargain at \$28.50.

Splendid Values in Dinner Sets, on Sale Tuesday in China Department

On Tuesday we will place on sale a variety of very handsome Dinner Sets that should prove to be of great interest to all, and do justice to the reputation we enjoy for bargains during the August sale. We are showing a splendid selection, which, in point of design and quality, are unsurpassed at the price. Our buyers have made some very satisfactory purchases and we intend to go beyond our previous records of bargain offering this August. See our window display on Broad street.

ENGLISH SEMI-PORCELAIN DINNER SETS AT \$13.60. This set consists of 99 pieces, all very useful shaped and handsomely decorated in the Chanticleer effect. There is no question about the very fine value that this set represents. It would be a bargain at \$20. Special for August sale, the set \$13.50.

99-PIECE DINNER SET AT \$17.50. Here is another fine bargain. It is made of fine English semi-porcelain, has white body and dark blue and gold decoration, is neat and effective, and one of the best values that we have ever offered. Regular \$27.50. August sale price \$17.50.

COBALT BLUE ENGLISH DINNER SET, WORTH \$17.50. AUGUST SALE PRICE \$12.50. This is a very popular style, has beautiful Oriental landscape decoration in Cobalt blue on a white ground, is made of fine English semi-porcelain, in neat and useful shapes; 97 pieces in the set. A bargain at \$12.50.

OUR OPEN STOCK SETS AT \$12.90. See our open stock sets. You will be pleased with them. They are, for quality and appearance, unsurpassed by any ordinary set worth in the regular way \$18 a set. Special for August sale, per set \$12.90.

KITCHENWARE BARGAINS. DOUBLE BOILERS, capacity of inside boiler is 4 pints; made of best grade of enamelware. Price, each \$1.50. WATER BUCKETS, made with bale handles; capacity 12 quarts; made of good enamelware. Price, each \$1.00. DISH PANS, strongly made of good enamelware; capacity 17 quart. August sale price \$1.00.

TEA KETTLES, made of strong nickel-plated copper, in five sizes. Special prices for August sale, \$1.75, \$1.50, \$1.25, \$1 and \$0.90. TEA AND COFFEE POTS, in heavy nickel-plated copper. Price, each, for August sale, \$1.10 and \$0.90.

Mahogany Parlor Cabinets at \$5, \$7 and \$10 Each

These are very handsome cabinets, made of well seasoned mahogany and fitted with very neat cupboards with glass fronts and sides, beautifully shaped shelves and brackets; also round or shaped mirrors in the backs. There are four pieces only in this line. Shop early if you want one. They are exceptional bargains. Three pieces, each \$10, \$7 and \$5.00.

Interesting News from the Carpet and House Furnishing Department

IRISH POINT LACE CURTAINS in ecru shades only, are beautifully embroidered in applique work, are 3 yards long and are excellent value at, per pair \$6.75.

SWISS LACE CURTAINS, edges finished with overlook stitching on fine mesh Brussels net, in ecru shades only; very handsome and serviceable; 3 yards long. Per pair, August sale price \$4.50.

WHITE NOTTINGHAM LACE CURTAINS, in all the latest and most handsome designs, strongly woven, double threads, have overlooked edges and come in beautiful floral and conventional designs; well adapted for any room in the home; 3 yards or 3 1/2 yards long, at August sale price, per pair, only \$1.50.

MADRAS MUSLINS in shades of ivory, ecru and drab; very durable quality, made in plain styles or with bordered effects in all the latest styles. Thirty pieces of this very desirable material will go on sale Tuesday. All 40 to 50 in. wide and regularly sold at 50c and 60c a yard, at the special price of per yard \$1.35.

PORTIERE CURTAINS, made of heavy Roman stripe tapestry in combination colorings of red, green, blue and brown, finished with heavy drapery fringe, 3 yards long and 36 in. wide. August sale price, each \$1.95.

WILTON RUGS—These rugs are renowned for their splendid wearing qualities. They come in a great variety of colorings and designs. Size 9x9, with handsome border effects. They are well made, being very closely woven and have thick velvety pile. These rugs are worth in the regular way \$25 each, but we have far too large a stock and have marked them down for a speedy clearance at, each \$16.75.

BRUSSELS CARPET SQUARES in a variety of beautiful conventional designs. They come in two tone reds, also red and gold, have a hard finished surface; are closely woven and are guaranteed to give satisfactory service. Size 9x9. Special for August sale, each \$7.50.

ODD PIECES OF BRUSSELS CARPET in lengths about 4 ft. 6 in. long in a great variety of colors and designs. These will make very fine mats for the bedside, bathroom or landing and represent remarkable value at this price. Colors chiefly blues and reds and greens. Price, each \$7.50.

JAPANESE MATTING MATS, in a great variety of printed designs and an assortment of rich Oriental colorings. These mats are very popular for bedroom and bathroom use. Size 3x6 ft. August sale price, each \$2.50.

Great Variety of Dressers in Solid and Surface Oak. Prices from \$7.50

DRESSER in surface oak, has panel ends, three large drawers, fitted complete with lock and neat handles, top measures 2 ft. 10 in. x 1 ft. 6 in. The back is three feet high and carries a bevelled mirror, oval in shape, between two neat arms. Special sale price \$8.90.

DAVID SPENCER, LIMITED

HIGH SCHOOL ARE NOW Successful Students and at Through The Department Saturday announced examinations held in the High School rooms of the 1,261 sented themselves numbers at the as follows: Armstrong, Chilliwack, Cranbrook, Cumberland, Duncan, ...