

The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, April 26th, 1911

THE ANTI-RECIPROCITY PROMOTERS

The capitalistic class in Canada is taking advantage of the protective tariff to form mergers, not to reduce the cost of production for the benefit of the consumer, not in order to pay higher wages to their workmen, but chiefly for the purpose of enhancing prices and of watering stock at the expense of the consumer. These people, and they are but a small handful in the Eastern cities, are spending vast sums of money and a great deal of energy in denouncing the reciprocity agreement with United States. They are paying double the ordinary advertising rates to have articles in the Canadian Century, of Montreal, published as news articles in the country weekly papers throughout Ontario and the Maritime Provinces. These articles are ingeniously written with the aim to convince the farmers that reciprocity will injure them. But none of these articles would be published unless paid for. It will cost the capitalists half a million dollars to carry on this campaign of "education" in Eastern rural Canada.

DOES ANY FARMER IN CANADA THINK THAT THESE BIG INTERESTS ARE SPENDING ALL THIS MONEY BECAUSE OF THEIR INTENSE LOVE FOR THE FARMERS? Then if these big capitalistic patriots are not animated by love for their fellowmen, what object have they in view? Free trade in natural products cannot possibly affect the Special Privileged classes who are amassing wealth at the expense of the consumer under the shelter of protection. The reciprocity agreement is a business proposition seriously affecting practically no other class outside the farmers. Then why this terror on the part of the Special Privileged ones? The reason is abundantly clear. They realize that free trade in natural products will encourage the demand for freer trade and tariff reduction to a revenue basis generally. **THE RATIFICATION OF THE RECIPROCITY AGREEMENT WILL MEAN THAT THE PEOPLE HAVE CAPTURED ONE OF THE MINOR OUTWORKS LEADING TO THE CITADEL OF PROTECTION. IT WILL MEAN THAT IN THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE PEOPLE AND SPECIAL PRIVILEGE THAT THE PRELIMINARY SKIRMISH HAS BEEN WON BY THE PEOPLE. IT WILL MEAN THAT THE POWER OF THE PEOPLE WILL VERY SOON BRING THAT INIQUITOUS STRUCTURE KNOWN AS PROTECTION TUMBLING ABOUT THE HEADS OF SPECIAL PRIVILEGE.** The reciprocity agreement is the handwriting on the wall for that handful of interests that have preyed upon the people of Canada for the last generation. This is the reason why they are willing to spend such an enormous sum of money to "educate" the people against reciprocity. The campaign they are carrying on is similar to the "Observer" campaign carried on a year ago by the elevator interests in Winnipeg for the purpose of injuring the Grain Growers' Grain Company. They have not published their articles in the rural papers of Western Canada, so far as we have seen. We do not believe that the proprietors of the newspapers in the small towns of the Prairie Provinces would publish such articles for pay. This band of capitalists have dictated for years where the people of Canada shall purchase the necessities of life and how much they shall pay for them. They now have the audacity to say where the farmers of Canada shall sell their produce. Are the farmers of Canada possessed of such a moral fibre as

will permit domination by a handful of greedy capitalists who have amassed their wealth from the pockets of the people, and who are determined that they will continue so profitable a pursuit?

RESULTS ARE COMING

The appeal to our readers to assist us in building up a big circulation for The Guide is resulting in great success. We felt that this would be the case because only those who read The Guide closely can appreciate the work it is doing. Some of our readers may at times not agree with the editorial opinions expressed, but they give us credit for sincerity in the attitude we take. No other journal gives the news of the various associations; no other journal publishes the number of authoritative and valuable news articles on the great economic, social and political questions that are agitating the public mind of Canada and the world. Whether a man be a Conservative, Liberal, Independent, Socialist or anything else, he will find valuable information in every issue of The Guide, and can form his own opinions thereon. Here is a sample of the many letters we are receiving:

"I herewith send you three new subscriptions for your paper at 50c each till January 1, 1912. I have been a constant reader of The Guide for about six months. It is the best, and most useful paper I ever read, and I would not be without it if it cost \$5 per year. I hope that every farmer in Canada will become a subscriber."

"R. GILBERT."

Wawota, Sask., April 13, 1911.

It is from such friends that the support must come to make The Guide a great journal. We should have 10,000 new subscribers before October 1. That is a big order, but not if our friends will help us as they are doing. Circulation will bring the advertising revenue, which is already growing well. If we get a surplus revenue it will be used in improving the service to our readers and not in dividends. During the past twenty-four days our friends have secured for us 563 new subscribers. Our special offer of 50 cents till January 1, 1912, is still open. Will everybody take a hand?

MR. MEIGHEN AT PORTAGE

On the evening of April 21 Arthur Meighen, M.P., delivered an able anti-reciprocity address at Portage la Prairie. As the arguments he presented were not new we will not devote space to them, having dealt with practically every one of them in detail previously. We wish to agree with him most heartily upon his references to the duty upon agricultural implements. In speaking of the reduction of this duty made by the agreement, Mr. Meighen said:

"I think in that line it (the argument) might have gone much farther. From the information I could gather I believe that they could have gone much farther down on farm implements without losing a single industry to Canada."

Every available fact bears out Mr. Meighen's statements that the agricultural implement industry of Canada does not need the protection it now has. In regard to the reduction of the duty on cement Mr. Meighen says:

"We have a big cement merger and there are millions of dollars of water in it. It controls that industry. While even under those conditions I would not do anything to drive the industry out of Canada, still I believe that we could have gone down and taught a lesson that the consumers of Canada are not to be taxed to pay dividends on watered stock. It seems to me there is nothing in the world to

hinder the government if it goes resolutely about it to control this capitalization. There is nothing to hinder it supervising the capitalization of our companies and seeing that there is a minimum of stock, and by a thorough system of probing they can shake out water from a great many that now contain such a great proportion of it. I for one, unless I change mightily from my opinion today, will never vote for a protection to pay dividends on watered stock."

Here again we believe that Mr. Meighen is working along the right line. It is not the desire of any advocate of tariff reduction or reciprocity, so far as we know, to drive any legitimate industry out of Canada. In regard to the Hudson's Bay Road Mr. Meighen said:

"Let us build the Hudson's Bay road and operate it as a government line, and thus procure cheapness in our export traffic. Let us do this, I say, even though we have to run it at a loss. Canada would not and Canada will not grudge this to the Canadian West. Let us establish it on a basis that will be permanent and profitable for the farmers of this country, even though in this case it will be for a time a loss to the national treasury. In the end it will work out to the advantage not only of the West, but to Canada."

This is the policy advocated by the Western farmers. They do not believe that it will be necessary to operate the Hudson's Bay Road at a loss. It will require a very firm stand on the part of the Western people even yet to secure government operation of the Hudson's Bay road. The government has decided to build the road, but has not yet decided to operate it. If it is not operated by and for the people it will lose the greater part of the benefit for which it is advocated. Mr. Meighen says that the reason the reciprocity agreement was secured was:

"Because—in a room in the Russell House at Ottawa, a number of men, respectable men, formulated a lot of demands on the government, put those demands before a meeting of delegates in the Russell theatre there, and without one breath of discussion passed the demands, and about one-tenth of one per cent. included this reciprocity pact."

This is partly incorrect and decidedly so in its inference. The Dominion Grange at their annual meeting, and the Western Grain Growers' Associations have expressed themselves upon the tariff frequently. The demands upon the government were formulated by the Canadian Council of Agriculture and were then brought before the eight hundred delegates in the Grand Opera house at Ottawa on December 15 last. Mr. Meighen says that the delegates passed these demands "without a breath of discussion." There was a great deal of discussion upon these demands, lasting from ten o'clock in the morning till six o'clock at night. On the tariff demands in particular several very able addresses were delivered, and then the meeting was thrown open and the chairman not only requested but pressed for expressions of opinion in opposition to the resolutions, but not one delegate was opposed. These demands upon the government were absolutely unanimously endorsed by the eight hundred delegates present. It is difficult to understand how the farmers of Canada can oppose reciprocity and thus claim protection for their own industry while at the same time they are advocating the removal of the protection from other industries.

Mr. E. C. Drury, secretary of the Canadian Council of Agriculture, has challenged Col. Sam Hughes to an open debate with him on the reciprocity question on any platform in Peterboro. That was over a month ago, but the doughty Colonel has not been heard from.