

THE POLICY OF BOTH PARTIES

When the reciprocity agreement was announced in the House of Commons it was regarded by Canadian people at large as a tremendous boon to the country. It was the successful consummation of the policy which has been adopted by both parties ever since Confederation. It never was, and never should have been, a question of party politics. If ever there was a single question upon which both parties should have agreed it was reciprocity. It was the policy of Sir John A. Macdonald until the day of his death; it was the policy of Sir John Thompson, Hon. George E. Foster and Sir Charles Tupper. It has been the policy of the Conservative party always. At the general election of 1891 Sir John Thompson, then minister of justice, in appealing to the electors of Antigonish county for re-election, said:

"The government, of which I am a member, is appealing to the country with a policy which we believe will be heartily endorsed by the great majority of the electors. We have made to the government of the United States proposals for reciprocity in trade, which we have reason to believe will result in an arrangement by which the markets of the United States will be reopened to the products which our people desire to send there."

Was Sir John disloyal at that time? Were all these Conservative statesmen disloyal? No, they were sensible men who were trying to secure a trade advantage for their country. If reciprocity was a good thing for Canada with a small population twenty years ago how much better for her now with a much larger surplus of natural products for export. Conditions have not changed in the slightest to make reciprocity the less desirable. Let us bring it down to the present time. Hon. F. G. W. Haultain, leader of the Conservative party in the Saskatchewan legislature, and admittedly one of the ablest Conservatives in Canada, is a strong advocate of reciprocity. He is a man big enough to put principle above party. He knows he is but carrying out the policy which the people of Canada have been pursuing through all time. Then there is John Herron, the Conservative member for Macleod, and who was nominated last week again. At his nomination meeting he declared that he was a supporter of reciprocity and would vote for it in parliament. The truth is that reciprocity is the policy of the Liberal party and is, and always has been, the policy of the Conservative party. But when the question came up in Parliament the leading beneficiaries of Special Privilege in the Conservative party induced the leaders to oppose it. Mr. Borden is not a man who would willingly desire to keep the common people in oppression. But his better judgment has been over-ruled by the zeal of some of his supporters who have no other desire on earth but to get control of the treasury. Are the people of Canada for the mere purpose of party advantage going to throw aside the greatest opportunity towards democracy and prosperity that has come to them in a generation?

WHAT THE FARMERS ASKED FOR

Several candidates who have been nominated in the West have declared their support of the entire Farmers' Platform. It would be well for the electors in these constituencies to secure the signature of these gentlemen to the Farmers' Platform. A man will then be sure just what he is voting for. That platform is as follows, and deserves the support of every man in Western Canada:

Reciprocal free trade between Canada and the United States in all horticultural, agricultural and animal products, spraying materials, fertilizers, illumination, fuel and lubricating oils, cement, fish and lumber.

Reciprocal free trade between the two countries in all agricultural implements, machinery, vehicles, and parts of each of these; and, in the event of a favorable arrangement being reached, it be carried into effect through

the independent action of the respective governments, rather than by the hard and fast requirements of a treaty.

Immediate lowering of the duties on all British goods to one-half the rates charged under the general tariff schedule, whatever that may be; and that any trade advantage given the United States in reciprocal trade relations be extended to Great Britain. Such further gradual reductions of the remaining preferential tariff as will ensure the establishment of complete free trade between Canada and the Mother Land within ten years.

That the Hudson Bay railway and all terminal facilities connected therewith be constructed, owned and operated in perpetuity by the Dominion Government under an independent commission.

That the Dominion Government acquire and operate as a public utility under an independent commission, the terminal elevators at Port William and Port Arthur and immediately establish similar terminal facilities and conditions at the Pacific coast, and provide the same at Hudson Bay when necessary; also such transfer and other elevators necessary to safeguard the quality of export grain.

That cheap and effective machinery for the incorporation of co-operative societies shall be provided by federal legislation during the present session of Parliament.

That aid be given for the inauguration of (co-operative or government owned) chilled meat export industry, after a thorough investigation.

That the railway companies be compelled to compensate farmers for stock killed upon their lines; that a true physical valuation be made of the railways of Canada, and that rates be based thereon.

Every elector who favors that platform should take a copy of it to his candidate and ask for his signature. Then will it be possible to ascertain just where the candidates stand towards the whole platform.

AN EMINENT AUTHORITY

The guest of honor at the Winnipeg Canadian Club on August 21 was Dr. Jacob Gould Schurman, president of Cornell University. Dr. Schurman is a native of Prince Edward Island, who went to the United States as a young man and since 1892 has been at the head of one of the greatest educational institutions in the world. His subject before the Canadian Club was "The Future of the Anglo-Saxon Race," and incidentally he expressed his hearty approval of the reciprocity agreement. On the loyalty and annexation question he was very pronounced. On this subject he said:

"I cannot resist the conviction that the total volume of trade and commerce between Canada and the United States is far smaller than the best interests of both countries imperatively warrant. I welcome the larger and freer atmosphere that begins to blow about us. It is a trade agreement equally honorable and equally advantageous to both nations."

"I have heard less about annexation during twenty-four years' residence in the United States than I have heard in twenty-four hours every day since I landed in Vancouver."

"Any man who thinks that Americans are lying awake nights forming plans for the annexation of Canada, is under a delusion which is fatal to sound thought and wise action."

These are the words of a man who hopes to see Canada and the United States come into closer and mutually beneficial trade relations, and also who looks upon Canada as one of the future great nations of the earth. He regards Canada as a nation today, and scouts the suggestion that such a thing as annexation would ever be dreamed of by the serious-minded people of either country.

The Winnipeg Telegram, on Aug. 15, took a hard crack at the opponents of reciprocity when it said:

"The Canadian people are under a debt of gratitude to the Boston Transcript and its denationalized correspondent. He has shown exactly the type of man to be found among the chief opponents of reciprocity, a crawling, cringing creature at the best, and he has thrown a great flood of light upon the real meaning of reciprocity and its inevitable results."

We would never think of using such language even towards our opponents. The Tele-

gram, however, speaks very candidly about its own friends and we cannot therefore challenge its statement.

Speaking in Winnipeg on Aug. 18, Hon. C. H. Campbell, attorney-general of Manitoba, opposed the reciprocity agreement very strongly. He denied that Canada could abrogate the agreement if it proved to be detrimental to Canadian interests. His words were:

"To repeal the pact within a year would cause a great affront to the United States and to the people of the United States. It would disturb the business of the United States, and the States would, on one pretext or another, pick a quarrel with Canada and force a war upon her."

This is a statement made deliberately by the chief law officer of Manitoba. He enjoys the unique distinction of being the only prominent public man in Canada who has given utterance to such nonsensical ideas. He must have been very hard pressed for argument when he stumbled upon that one.

The Toronto News is laboring hard to prove that the reciprocity agreement is a terribly bad bargain. But this same journal had a moment of sanity on January 27, 1911, the day after the agreement was announced in the House. On that day The News said:

"It must be admitted that the Washington administration, as a means of relief from serious political combinations, has conceded more to Canada than we have to the neighboring country."

Since that time The News has taken all this back at the dictation of the politicians and financiers who control it.

The tremendous labor upheaval in Britain will no doubt result in legislation which will forever prevent a recurrence of such a disaster. If nations can arbitrate all questions, surely labor disputes can be settled in the same manner. There is something wrong when the troops are called out to shoot down their own people in times of peace.

If there is any disloyalty among the Canadian people it must be among those anti-reciprocity forces. They are the only people who apparently doubt their own attachment to their country. They need not do any worrying about the loyalty of the people who simply want to get a better return for their labors.

If the business of Canada were to be conducted by Parliament in a business-like way, eight weeks would be the extreme limit necessary for parliamentary sessions. But \$50 a minute amounts to nothing when the politicians are playing the game at the expense of the people.

It begins to look as though Germany might sign a general arbitration treaty with the United States. If so, this is but the prelude to a similar compact with Great Britain. When this triple alliance is consummated world peace is assured.

Don't forget that we are sending The Guide to any address till the end of the year for 25 cents. If you know of anyone who should be interested in the work of the organized farmers here is a chance to get them in touch with the movement.

If reciprocity will be of no value to the Western farmer then W. H. Sharpe might explain what he meant in his address in the House of Commons last year. Or was that speech just for political purposes?

We get numerous inquiries as to the exact terms of the reciprocity agreement. It has all been published in The Guide. No journal in Canada has given its readers more complete information upon the subject, from both sides.

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