

PREFACE

This pamphlet is a compilation of a series of articles on Reciprocity which were published during the past winter in the Eastern Townships papers.

This question which was so unexpectedly thrown into the political arena should receive the serious consideration of every Canadian.

It raises three issues.

First, the constitutional question, involving the right of two men, unauthorized and unasked, to bind this whole Dominion to an agreement which is repugnant to a large proportion of its people.

Second, the economic, or dollars and cents side of the question.

I have treated the subject mostly from this point of view. I have tried to discuss it fairly, and especially as it will affect our Eastern Townships farmers.

I have endeavored to be very exact in quoting figures, and have taken pains to verify those quoted. It must of course be borne in mind, however, that the market prices of some products may not be just the same when this pamphlet is read as they were when the article was written.

Third, there is the national aspect.

To me as a Canadian, loyal to the British Crown, born a Britisher and desiring to die a Britisher, this phase of the question is the most important.

I look upon reciprocity as the thin edge of the wedge to separate us from the mother country.

I am not prepared to run the risk of such separation, even if some small present material gain were possible.

The mess of pottage would not tempt me to sell my Canadian birthright.

And if the loyal farmers of the Eastern Townships are of the same mind, I doubt whether they will risk severing their British connection even if they were assured a cent a pound more for their produce—which they are not.

W. L. SHURTLEFF.

Coaticook, Que., April, 1911.